The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 24 August 1972
Eleventh Year - No. 541 - By air

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Peking woos Western Europe and Japan

China is out to win friends and its own friendship is being sought as never before. Politicians and delegates from all over the world are visiting Peking. In a matter of weeks nearly ten Third World heads of government and Ministers have paid their respects in the Chinese capital.

They were joined by French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, Gerhard Schröder of this country, Swiss parliamentarians, Japanese MPs and UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. British Foreign Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home also plans a visit to Peking.

The highlight of an impressive succession of diplomatic ventures in Peking will, however, be the forthcoming visit to China of the newly elected Japanese Premier Kakuei Tanaka.

Other facts also demonstrate the extent to which China is opening up to the world. It is buying commercial airliners in the West, has invited American computer specialists to the mainland and is concluding an agreement with the United States on the exchange of news.

Since President Nixon's visit to the Chinese capital there have been no more direct personal attacks on the US leader in the Chinese media, although his Indo-China policy is rejected as vehemently as ever it was.

Even so, the 20 February 1971 headline in the Peking *People's Daily* "Don't Go Mad, Nixon!" now seems to belong to an era long since past.

The tenor of current Chinese foreign policy is determined by mellifluous cordial diplomacy rather than by harsh and objectionable revolutionary slogans. Thailand provides the latest instance.

Twenty-six Thai table-tennis players have been invited to the Asian championships in Peking, it being mentioned in passing that General Praphas, a close associate of the strong man of the Bangkok military regime, will be among the party. He is expected to conduct talks with the Chinese government.

In the past Peking has responded unfavourably to the cautious approaches the Thais have made to their large neighbour to the North as the Americans prepare to pull out of South-East Asia.

Thailand was felt by the Chinese to be a lamentable lackey and aircraft carrier for the American war of aggression in Indo-China, which was why China more or less directly supported the rebellions in the North and South of Thailand.

Leaving aside the war in Indo-China it has been noted for some time that Peking is growing increasingly circumspect in lending open support to revolutionary movements.

As long ago as April 1971 Premier Chou En-lai disappointed left-wing extremists by condemning the uprising of so-called Guevarists in Ceylon as a counter-revolutionary adventure designed merely to lead the masses astray and undermine the Bandaranaike government's development programme.

Lin Piao's tenet of the encirclement of the world's cities (the industrialised countries) by the world's villages (the developing countries) and active support for the most varied rebellions were almost a thing of the past.

China's national interest came to the fore and that meant establishing normal relations with as many countries as possible. This tallied with the new guideline not to oppose the UN but to pursue China's goals with United Nations aid.

In its long march through the institutions of the world organisation China, unlike others, would prefer to be able to paint itself in the colours of a peaceful power.

The developing countries undoubtedly continue to play a significant part in Peking's concept. China does, when all is said and done, describe itself as a developing country. But nowadays the Third World is only one link in the chain of battle against the two superpowers. The old tenet of intermediate zones has been refurbished to include capitalist and socialist states and entire groups of states such as the EEC or the non-aligned countries provided only that they are intent on gaining further independence of Moscow and Washington.

There are, however, remarkable nuances in the way China has taken sides against the two superpowers. According to Mao Tse-tung contradictions on the other side must be exploited. As the main contradiction as far as Peking is currently concerned consists of relations with Moscow the US President was accorded preference when it came to a straight choice between Brezhnev or Nixon.

Only recently Mao emphasised to French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann the military and political danger to the North he felt there to exist.

In order to safeguard its independence and widen its leeway China is currently engaged in a diplomatic offensive in two directions: Western Europe and Japan.

China would welcome a self-confident and more powerful Western Europe as a counterweight to Moscow. In many ways this tallies with the views on a new world balance held by President Nixon and Dr Kissinger.

That is why the Chinese are a little alarmed at the prospect of a European security conference that might turn out to relieve the burden on Moscow to the West and give the Soviet Union a freer hand in dealing with Peking.

The expected change in relations with Tokyo may prove to be even more significant and already realistic for Peking. Since the assumption of office by the new Japanese Premier Kakuei Tanaka early in July cordial gestures have been travelling to and fro between the two capitals.

Towards the end of September Mr Tanaka intends to visit Peking at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Chou En-lai, and end the sad story of decades of hostility between the Japanese and the Chinese.

Politically Japan will have to sacrifice Taiwan. Otherwise cordial relations with Peking, something the majority of Japanese wholeheartedly favour, would remain impossible of achievement.

This creates difficulties in respect of Japan's security agreement with the United States, by the terms of which Tokyo undertakes to stand by Taiwan in the event of conflict.

Siegfried Kubink

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 14 August 1972)

IN THIS ISSUE

Richard Nixon rides the Vietnam tiger

America's last fighting unit has left Vietnam. This strategic withdrawal has taken four years to accomplish. Mr Nixon may not yet have fulfilled his electoral pledge – the Vietnam war is not yet over – but in terms of quality it has become a different war.

The air force and the navy now bear the brunt of US involvement. This is a military burden that the President can cheerfully bear for the duration of an election campaign. It is a tiger that Richard Nixon can ride.

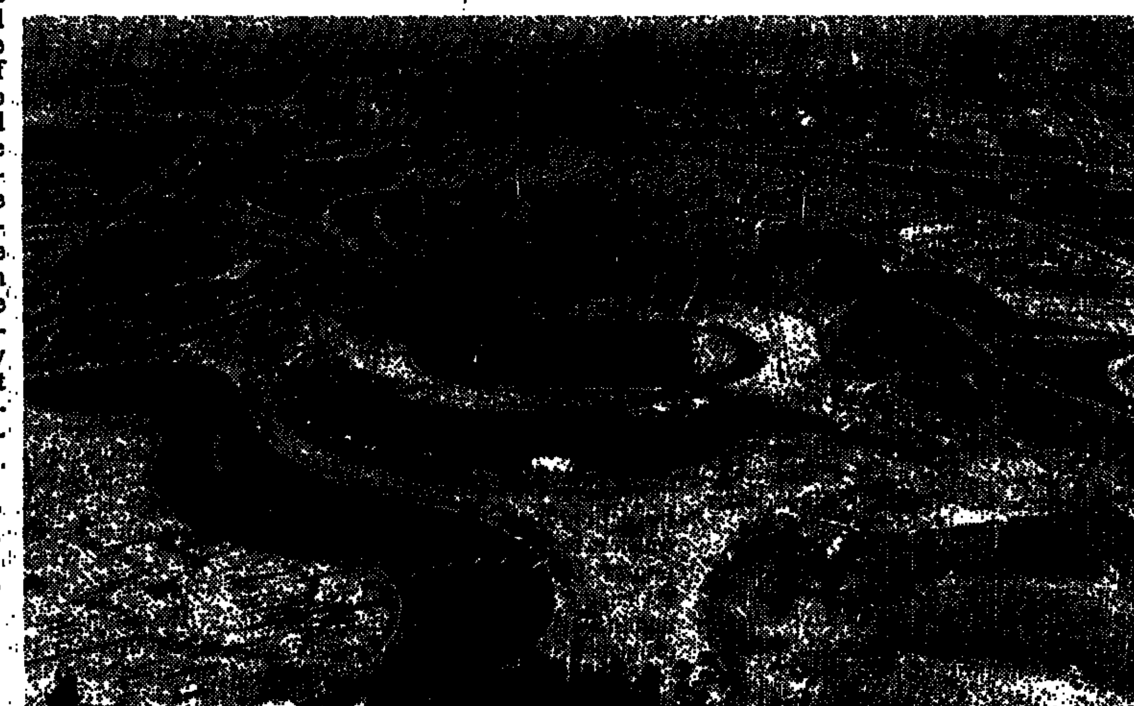
There is an amazing readiness within the United States to accept this technological war of anonymous weaponry as a reality that Uncle Sam must stand up and face. What is more, the boundless confidence of the average American in the power of weapons technology has assumed the proportions of a political factor.

It is a factor that is working in Mr Nixon's favour. The hope that technology will win the day will not have been dispelled by impatience before November. Last May's strategic crisis and the political doldrums in which it left the administration has developed into a stable political situation.

This is no coincidence. There is the determination of the President not to give in and the imaginative way in which he justifies this determination. Then there are the smooth diplomatic operations of Henry Kissinger, his adviser.

The Peking and Moscow summits, the confidential talks with the North Vietnamese, the transfer of the centre of strategic gravity from Vietnam to Thailand, the reduction in numbers of ground combat troops and the intensification of air warfare – all these initiatives now appear as grandiose parts of a plan carefully to disengage the United States from the most unfortunate war in its history.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 August 1972)



A bird's eye view of Olympic Munich

Viewed from above, here is the controversial marquee roof that spans most of the major Olympic arenas in Munich, where everything is ready for the opening ceremony of the 1972 Olympic Games on 26 August. Ten thousand athletes from 123 countries will be competing for gold, silver and bronze.

(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Eastern Bloc closes ranks in the Crimea

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The veils of secrecy with which the Eastern Bloc summit in the Crimea was initially surrounded have recently increasingly been lifted by disclosures from various Eastern sources.

The communiqué issued after the talks between Eastern Bloc Party leaders was, as so often in such instances, virtually devoid of information, merely listing the names of participants and stating that problems relating to cooperation and international affairs had been the subject of discussion.

A number of inferences can, however, be derived as to the major issues debated from the behind-the-scenes meetings accompanying the summit.

Soviet Party leader Leonid Brezhnev invited Rumanian and GDR leaders Nicolae Ceausescu and Erich Honecker to attend separate talks, Herr Honecker conferred with Czech Party leader Gustav Husak and Dr Husak conferred with his Polish opposite number Edward Gierek.

A few days after the Crimean summit a declaration by the Socialist Unity Party (SED) politbureau in East Berlin shed a little light in the darkness. The Crimean deliberations, the SED statement noted had particularly concerned the further development of relations between the Federal Republic and Eastern Bloc countries.

Bonn's treaties with Moscow and Warsaw came in for further praise and the *Ostpolitik* of the Social and Free Democrat coalition in Bonn was for the first time ever officially given a favourable mention by the GDR leaders.

"The new situation in Europe," the East Berlin declaration conceded, "is partly the outcome of endeavours by the Brandt-Scheel administration to develop objective relations with Eastern countries."

The indications given in these East Berlin declarations were subsequently confirmed by Moscow. In the wake of the SED leaders the politbureau of the Soviet Communist Party has also debated the Crimean summit and published details of the conclusions reached in the course of the Crimean talks.

At General Secretary Brezhnev's holiday home in Oreanda the agenda, one can be fairly certain, consisted of the East's foreign policy timetable.

Moscow's next targets in Europe, as outlined to and embraced by its allies, are an agreement between Bonn and Prague and a further agreement between Bonn and East Berlin that would enable both German States to apply for admission to the United Nations at the earliest opportunity.

This Eastern Bloc wants list is nothing new and is hardly designed to raise eyebrows in Bonn. What is new, however, is that Moscow has evidently fallen more into line with its Czechoslovak and GDR allies' wishes in its foreign policy approach to this country.

In the appendices to the Moscow Treaty brought home by Bonn State Secretary Egon Bahr it was stated that a formula acceptable to both Bonn and Prague should be found to resolve differences of opinion over the 1938 Munich Agreement.

What is now considered desirable is "a settlement of relations between Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic on the basis of acknowledgement that the Munich Agreement was null and void from the moment it was concluded."

International diplomatic recognition of the GDR is also to be accelerated, the summit coming out in favour of the admission of both German States to the United Nations as soon as possible.

The Eastern Bloc countries have developed unusual patterns of verbal acrobatics for their communiqués, and these apply equally to the Soviet leaders' statements about the Crimean summit.

The chosen wording is such that a compromise cannot be said to be out of the question. This being the case, it would be premature to conclude that the Kremlin's attitude towards Bonn has changed.

Why, though, have the Kremlin leaders adopted the somewhat tougher formulas advocated by Prague and East Berlin? The answer must surely be that the Soviet Union badly needs solidarity on the part of all its allies in the pursuit of its other major foreign policy target, the European conference on security and cooperation.

Mr Brezhnev can even notch up as a success the attendance of Rumanian leader Ceausescu at the Crimean summit. Last year Rumania was conspicuous by its absence.

A further favourable outcome is that Hungary has agreed to wait before establishing full diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic until Bonn and Prague have reached agreement.

An agreement between this country and Czechoslovakia has grown more difficult now that the fifth round of exploratory talks between Bonn and Prague has come to an unsuccessful conclusion.

The difficulties involved in the projected fundamental agreement between Bonn and East Berlin only recently came to light in the course of talks in Bonn between State Secretaries Egon Bahr and Michael Kohl of Bonn and East Berlin respectively.

This being the situation the Kremlin has evidently decided to secure its allies' closer allegiance to the Moscow line by adopting a somewhat tougher verbal approach. Moscow can easily abandon its latest demands should it appear opportune and it will be the Kremlin that decides when the time has come to do so.

By virtue of the Crimean summit the Soviet leaders have again underlined their claim to supremacy in Eastern Europe, a claim that all participants acknowledged by attending.

Foreign policy solidarity, which after ratification of the Moscow and Warsaw may temporarily have seemed subject to a threat of abandonment by certain Eastern Bloc countries, has, at the Crimean summit, been re-established, or so it would seem.

The ball is in the Kremlin's court. Anxious to inaugurate the security conference, Moscow cannot afford to tolerate breaks in its own ranks at present. In preparations for this mammoth European gathering Moscow would like to be able to assume the role of spokesman for the entire Eastern Bloc in order more easily to include its targets on the conference agenda. In this respect the Soviet Union would appear to have taken a step forwards in the Crimea.

Heinz Verfürth
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 August 1972)

China keen on top-level talks with Bonn

Peking would welcome at any time a member of the Bonn Federal government in order to conduct at a higher level and accelerate talks between the two on diplomatic recognition.

This view is voiced by political observers in the Chinese capital in connection with speculation in Bonn that either Foreign Minister Walter Scheel or Chancellor Willy Brandt might wish to visit People's China before the end of the year.

It is noted in Peking that Kakuei Tanaka, the new Japanese Premier, is probably visiting China at the end of September in order to discuss the prerequisites for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with his Chinese opposite number Chou En-lai.

It may thus be presumed that the Chinese government would not object to similar discussions with a Cabinet Minister from Bonn, particularly in view of the fact that negotiations from the two countries will have met at other conference tables by this juncture.

No real obstacles

Furthermore there are no real obstacles in the way of mutual recognition as far as Bonn and Peking are concerned, which cannot be said to be the case in respect of relations between Tokyo and Peking.

Gerhard Schröder, the chairman of the Bundestag foreign affairs committee, has agreed from the start with the Chinese spokesmen with whom he held discussions during his recent visit to China that it was wrong to talk in terms of "normalisation" of relations. It would be more accurate to say that there have so far been no official relations whatsoever between the two countries.

In principle the Federal government is prepared to establish diplomatic relations with Peking and willing to continue with the necessary contacts. Chief Bonn government spokesman Conrad Ahlers is not prepared to name deadlines but confirms that contacts are to be maintained via an unnamed embassy.

It may be assumed that the Chinese Foreign Ministry has already started the ball rolling in preparation for the establishment in the near future of an embassy in Bonn.

Some indication of the importance Peking attaches to this country is perhaps conveyed by the announcement that the Bonn office of the New China news agency is to be enlarged.

Hans-Joachim Bargmann
(Weser-Kurier, 10 August 1972)

Non-proliferation treaty has proved ineffective

The 1968 non-proliferation treaty by the terms of which the United States and the Soviet Union sought to forestall the spread of nuclear weapons to the "have-nots" has proved largely ineffective.

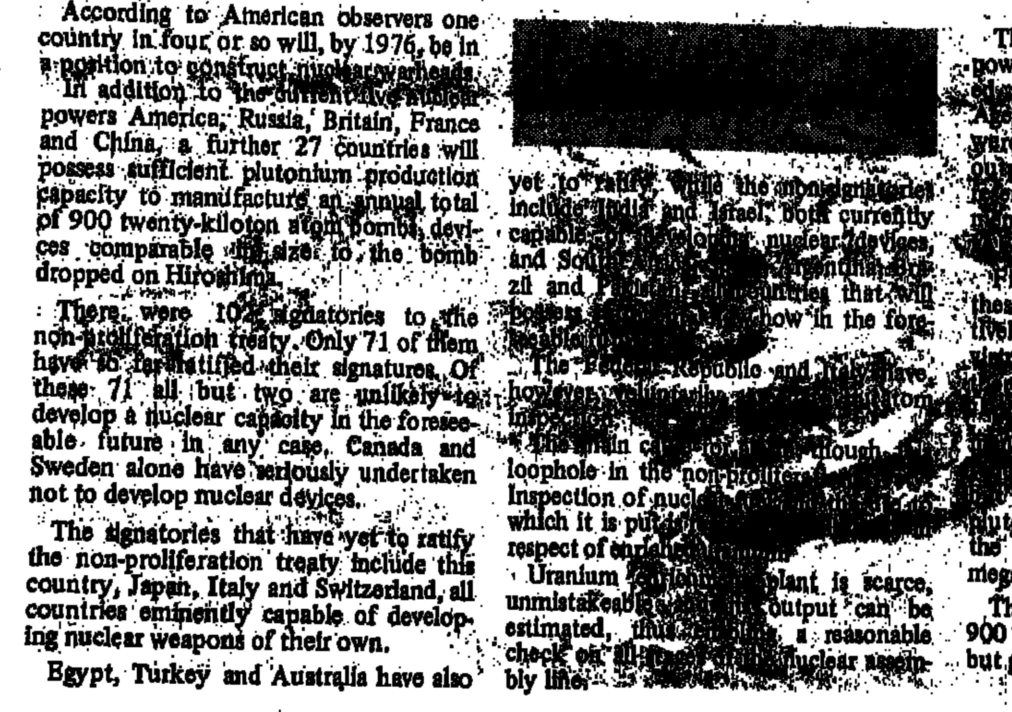
According to American observers one country in four or so will, by 1976, be in a position to construct nuclear warheads.

In addition to the current five nuclear powers America, Russia, Britain, France and China, a further 27 countries will possess sufficient plutonium production capacity to manufacture an annual total of 900 twenty-kiloton atom bombs, devices comparable in size to the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

There were 102 signatories to the non-proliferation treaty. Only 71 of them have so far ratified their signatures. Of these 71 all but two are unlikely to develop a nuclear capacity in the foreseeable future in any case. Canada and Sweden alone have seriously undertaken not to develop nuclear devices.

The signatories that have yet to ratify the non-proliferation treaty include this country, Japan, Italy and Switzerland, all countries eminently capable of developing nuclear weapons of their own.

Egypt, Turkey and Australia have also



yet to ratify, while the nonsignatories include India and Israel, both currently capable of developing nuclear devices, and South [illegible] Argentina, Brazil and P[illegible] countries that will possess [illegible] how in the foreseeable [illegible].

The Federal Republic and Italy have, however, [illegible] inspection.

The main [illegible] though [illegible] loophole in the non-prolifer[illegible] Inspection of nucl[illegible] which it is put [illegible] respect of enriched [illegible].

Uranium [illegible] plant is scarce, unmistakeable [illegible] output can be estimated, this [illegible] a reasonable check on all [illegible] nuclear assembly line.

This is not the case where reactors powered by natural uranium are concerned. The International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna is in no way empowered to check domestic uranium mining output and countries with no uranium reserves of their own can conclude agreements with other countries behind [illegible] it were.

Fissile plutonium is a by-product of these reactors that can be isolated relatively easily by chemical means. There is virtually no way of controlling the fur[illegible] it is put.

Plutonium may not be suitable for the manufacture of hydrogen bombs, which [illegible] "triggers" of pure uranium 235, but this is small consolation. Ten small plutonium bombs are capable of wreaking the havoc wrought by one twenty-megaton hydrogen bomb.

The prospect of annual manufacture of 900 plutonium bombs is thus anything but gratifying.

Walter Baier
(Münchner Merkur, 8 August 1972)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Managing Editor: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Geoffrey Penny. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 20 51. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: Konrad Kadlubowski, 56 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 9 — Annual subscription DM 25.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes a Quarterly Review and a Supplement, articles selected from German periodicals.

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■ PARTY POLITICS

Party youth organisations see a bright and promising future ahead

The three party youth organisations *Jungsozialisten, Jungdemokraten and Junge Union* are all members of the "Ring politischer Jugend". But they have more in common than this purely formal bond.

They are a community of young hopefuls. Only those who have not forgotten what it is like to have your life in front of you, to want to change things and get rid of the set ways of the past by which the older generation threatens the younger will understand that these youth organisations form an existential community that transcends all party lines. All three organisations hope they will not give their children the world on the same consumer platter on which it was presented to them by their parents.

All three are democratic and want to put across their ideas by means of persuasion and free voting. All three uphold the constitutional State and the liberty of the individual.

All three groups follow an ideology though most of their members deny this. Total distancing from ideologies would be pure pragmatism, that is to say human beings react to events on each occasion in one way or another that is useful. Pragmatism does not include any concept of how the world should look. The world is accepted the way it is.

None of the three organisations thinks in this way. They all want to change the world, some more quickly than others. To do so they require an ideology. The Young Socialists draw on a purified and newly appreciated form of Marxism, the *Junge Union* (CDU/CSU youth group) draws on what it calls basic values and the Young (Free) Democrats have a new image of liberalism, which has incorporated many elements of Socialism.

None of the groups can nowadays be called conservative, not even the *Junge Union*. All of the roads the groups are treading head leftwards. The Young Socialists are the spearhead, but they have the FDP youth group hard on their heels. The *Junge Union* is way behind in the march leftwards. But taking its policies in comparison with those of the CDU or CSU it is extreme leftist!

Let us take a few examples of what the three have in common: they are all suspicious about the merits of the free enterprise economy. They all believe that consumer activities cannot be the point of modern life any more and that economics must also serve to help human beings justify their existence.

All of them want democratisation of institutions and that includes factories. None of them rejects productivity and profit out of hand, but all want to see a fairer share-out of both. All of them are in favour of the State taking more action in community affairs, of new property laws, a greather amphasis on community matters and new taxation systems. All three are in favour of greater government planning.

Naturally there are quite enough points on which their opinions differ. The belief of the Young Socialists that all property in the form of means of production should be nationalised is not shared by the young FDP or CDU/CSU organisations. They are all agreed that the world should be changed — "improved" to use the *Junge Union* terminology — but they do not agree on the methods that should be used.

Without dragging along too much historical ballast Young Democrats are turning to the present and the future. But Young Socialists and the *Junge Union* have a heavy burden of tradition to bear.

For the one it is Karl Marx and the unquestioning, fascinating and aloof philosophy of life of this man, for the order it is Christianity. In everyday political phraseology the two are said to be poles apart. In reality Marxism and Christianity are very alike in their passionate championing of the underprivileged of this world. The very thing that keeps them apart could unite them.

If one tries to foretell the political future of the Federal Republic from the attitudes of these young people the prospects certainly look quite bright. Polarisation, an inheritance of previous generations from Bismarck and Wilhelm II to Hitler and of two abortive world wars, has little chance of continuing in the coming generations.

The young are not moved by nationalism but all seek greater spheres of thought and activity. They all consider the Oder-Neisse Line irrevocably the western border of Poland and young CDU followers and Young Socialists alike disagree intensely with the speeches of Franz Josef Strauss.

The politics of the generation that now holds the seats of power, the generation of Brandt and Wehner, of Genscher and Barzel and Strauss, was and is a constant wrestle with the past. This is the inevitable fate of this ruling generation. Some politicians tried to preserve what was good of the old order while others made their main task clearing away the obstacles to a better future. All of them bore the guilt and the burden fo the Hitler era which seemed to prevent them from making the great leap into the future.

For the younger generation this is all just history. The verbal fireworks between Strauss and Wehner impress them little. When the older generation carries out its battle between right and left the young see the missiles falling into the swamp of times gone by.

In the three groups a political youth is growing up from which the next political generation of this country will most certainly be formed. Those who have the energy and stamina to carry on the daily battle for the minds and feelings of the people will be the ones who emerge triumphant.

The organisations have 400,000 members, all young people who are politically aware. Assuming that half of them are active and vocal and that in the course of their activities each manages to influence only twenty people we can see that this is a powerful political force quite separate from the mass media. One day these young people will have a powerful say in political matters.

While the older generation in all three parties believes it can mantain its position and tries to do so with bans and all kinds of pressure the foundations of its world, which is far from being the best of all possible worlds, are crumbling beneath its feet.

The new generation, which will take over the controls sooner or later, will make Karl Schiller's anxious exclamation that this republic is not what he thought it was come true, quite independently of whether the new leaders are CDU or SPD. The older and more conservative politicians in all camps will cry that it is a worse republic. But they have been doing so since time immemorial.

Joachim Besser
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 July 1972)

Tracking down don't knows

Civil servants, women, young voters and old-age pensioners are the most promising customers for vote canvassers at the forthcoming election battle for seats in the seventh Bundestag. These sections of the Community contain the most floating voters.

On the other hand male voters between 25 and fifty, white-collar workers and party followers who have been well programmed to the party line in advance are not likely to be touched greatly by an election campaign however effective.

According to a representative survey carried out by the Infas public opinion research institute in Bad Godesberg among about one thousand people 67 per cent of the electorate "are already quite certain" what party they will vote for in the next elections.

The survey concluded that men are more sure in their minds than women — 72 per cent as against 63. About 71 per cent of those between 25 and fifty are sure where their cross will go. Seventy-four per cent of the SPD's regular voters stated that they would once again vote for the Social Democrats. Seventy per cent of CDU/CSU voters are sure they will not be changing their mind this time.

Twenty-one per cent of the women questioned and 35 per cent of civil servants claimed that they might well change their mind about which party to vote for during the course of the campaign. The quota of undecided in the lowest age group, eighteen to 24, is also quite considerable at 25 per cent.

Twenty per cent of senior citizens between fifty and 64 are not firmly resolved to vote for one party or another, and likewise nineteen per cent of old age pensioners.

This survey conducted in June showed that even the FDP's following is not finally decided where its sympathies will lie on this occasion. In fact regular voters for the FDP who might change their colour this time are 33 per cent. It seems that on this occasion as in the past the FDP stands to gain voters from the civil service and the younger generation.

Despite the repeated reassurances of all political parties that premature elections are now unavoidable and that 3 December is the most likely date for them discussions about the probability of an election continue, particularly in the ranks of the two major parties, SPD and CDU/CSU.

Egbard Mörbitz
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 August 1972)

Immunity loophole preoccupies pre-election Bonn

Every year the Bundestag summer recess throws up one or two weird occurrences. Few politicians remain in Bonn and those that do tend to scratch up a few oddities which the media, starved of any other political news, catch on to. This year Bonn once agains discovered a loophole in Basic Law.

When the Bundestag is dissolved in the autumn — assuming, that is, that the Chancellor has not had second thoughts — members of the Bundestag will lose the immunity and indemnity guaranteed them by Article 46 of Basic Law. That is to say they will enjoy no greater protection from prosecution under the normal processes of law than the man in the street.

Not all members are affected by this loss of immunity, however. Members of the Bundestag presidium, the standing committee and the committees for foreign affairs and defence and their deputies — in all about one third of Bundestag members — retain their immunity, according to Article 49 of Basic Law even in the period between the dissolution of one Bundestag and the formation of the next.

Among the privileged are the Chairmen of the Opposition parties, Rainer Barzel (CDU) and Franz Josef Strauss (CSU), but *not* the leaders of the government parties Willy Brandt (SPD) and Walter Scheel (FDP), the Federal Chancellor and Foreign Minister respectively.

As they enter the election fray they are not afforded special protection against law enforcement. But Strauss and Barzel could theoretically utter calumnies and even indulge in fisticuffs without being brought before the law. Only the new Bundestag could relieve them of their immunity.

Professor Schäfer, the Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry into Constitutional Reform, says he considers this state of affairs highly unlikely to arise if not impossible, and an election campaign usually takes place before the legislative period of the previous Bundestag has expired.

He talks of members of the Bundestag having differing rights after the dissolution and intends to put this matter to his committee when it reconvenes in September.

Probably at least one member of the Committee of Enquiry will suggest that there cannot be one law for one member and another for another after dissolution of the Bundestag, since there no longer are any members apart from those who are on the relevant committees.

Immunity was introduced in the first place to protect Bundestag members from attacks by members of the executive and this is the interpretation to be put on the ruling today, as well. What would be "impossible" would be for the head of government and his ministers to be immune while members of the Bundestag who keep the parliament's work going after dissolution were not.

Thus the present legal setup is quite normal, discriminates against no one and corresponds to the point of Basic Law, especially as it is not only members of the Opposition who are protected but the privilege is spread over the government and Opposition in proportion to the number of seats held.

This is not to say that it would be wrong in any way to amend the constitution so that all members of the Bundestag would retain their immunity beyond the expiry of the legislative period up to the constitution of the newly elected Bundestag.

The question is whether this would be advisable in the light of the development of parliamentarianism which is tending towards limitation of parliamentary privilege. The special protection of representatives of the people from the executive seemed necessary in the times of constitutional monarchy, but today it appears largely superfluous.

If Basic Law is to be amended for the umpteenth time another problem arises. One of the basic principles of the constitution is that there shall be equality of opportunity; but if parliamentary privilege is to be extended beyond the expiry of the legislative period former Bundestag members would be protected while those seeking a mandate for the first time would not. Is this fair?

Ludger Stein-Ruegenberg
(Deutsche Zeitung, 4 August 1972)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

New firearms legislation tightens grip on both arms and ammunition

If everything runs according to plan, about sixteen million people in this country will go to their nearest police station in the first six months of next year. About twelve million of them will admit that they have one or more firearms at home, three million will register pistols and revolvers while hundreds of thousands will tell officials that they possess sub-machine guns, machine guns, mortars, anti-aircraft guns and other arms.

The Bundestag passed a firearms law to this effect before the summer recess but experts at the Ministry of the Interior no longer believe that there will be such a sudden upsurge of honesty.

The Federal Republic is a nation that bristles with weapons even though many citizens certainly do not know how easy it is to obtain firearms legally. The Schützenbund – an organisation for gun-lovers – estimates that there are about twenty millions firearms in the country.

Three and a half million are in the possession of the police or armed forces. The remaining sixteen and a half million firearms would be enough to arm a quarter of the population. About three quarters of privately-owned firearms are not pistols and revolvers but long-barrelled weapons such as carbines, muskets and rifles.

This is a result of the firearms laws previously effective in the Federal states. These were based on the 1938 regulations. As nobody at that time could imagine criminals using weapons longer than about two feet, permission had only to be obtained for the acquisition and carriage of short-barrelled weapons.

At present and until the end of the year when the current Federal state laws expire, this permission is easier to obtain in some Federal states than others.

Taxi-drivers can easily obtain arms in Bavaria for example while in North Rhine-Westphalia bank messengers carry no more than a truncheon as they are unable to acquire firearms or a gun licence.

Until the new law takes effect the Federal Republic will continue to be one of the most liberal countries in the world where the purchase of long-barrelled weapons is concerned.

Eighteen-year-olds for instance are unable to sign a hire-purchase agreement for a record-player but until 1 January 1973 they will be allowed to buy as many firearms as they can pay for.

It was only fully-automatic machine guns that were not available legally in the past to private individuals. Machine and sub-machine guns are covered by the military weapons law that has already come into force.

No authority in the Federal Republic can give private individuals permission to buy arms of this type. Private trade has been banned and their production has to be licensed.

Of course they can still be obtained illegally by anyone who wants them that badly. Many of the bars frequented by gun-toting circles sell more than just beer. Ammunition is also hawked along with Uzi sub-machine guns from Israel for example or the MG 42 highly-recommended by World War Two veterans.

Members of the Düsseldorf branch of the Police Trade Union decided to test the validity of such claims last year. Plain-clothes men needed only a few hours to obtain a high-quality machine gun.

Experts at the Ministry of the Interior believe that even larger weapons are in circulation and refer to advertisements in magazines for weapon collectors and dealers. "If flak guns from the Second World War are wanted and offered for sale, there must be some in existence," they comment.

The new firearms law covers the whole country – the Federal states cannot pass their own laws – and is intended to disarm gun-lovers and control the possession of arms more thoroughly than previous arms laws have done.

The private ownership of military weapons and trade in them remains illegal. Some modern equipment has also been banned. It is no longer legal to use electronic sighting mechanisms which function reliably at night.

Potential victims do not know that infra-red equipment is being used. American troops have used equipment of this type in Vietnam and American military sources claim that it has proved a success.

Permission will be needed for trading in and possessing all weapons under the new firearms law. Long-barrelled arms will only be obtainable under licence, bringing them into line with short-barrelled weapons.

Licences will be issued sparingly. The only people entitled to carry weapons will be those who need them to protect their life. An applicant for a licence must be of good character and able to handle firearms.

Sportsmen and huntsmen will be given special privileges under the new law though they will have to be members of a club or be in possession of a hunting permit.

But huntsmen will lose one of their privileges too – apart from long-barrelled weapons which they can purchase in any quantity they will only be able to obtain two pistols or revolvers.

Collectors of historic weapons also need a licence as experience has shown that replicas of old guns can be converted into lethal firearms without too much difficulty.

The weakness of the new firearms law is the six-month transition period lasting until 30 June next year. During this period people in the possession of firearms will have to register their weapons with the authorities.

As a rule, they will then obtain a five-year licence, legalising their possession of firearms. Persons not registering their weapons risk imprisonment and the confiscation of their arms.

The risk of discovery is however minimal as long as an owner of firearms does not flaunt his illegal weapons in public and as long as the police do not obtain a search warrant for his home.

Those people who register their arms according to the terms of the new law will, with few exceptions, be those who expect to obtain a licence without any difficulty. Anyone registering a machine or sub-machine gun after 1 January 1973 will not receive a licence and will have to surrender his weapon.

The law will not therefore disarm criminals in the Federal Republic and even if this were the case it would not mean much. Firearms will still be legally obtainable in neighbouring countries – there are as yet no joint European regulations – and importing individual weapons would pose no difficulties as European frontiers are easy to cross.

Legal loophole plugged

Officials at the Ministry of the Interior believe that the most effective measure against the abuse of firearms will be a clause of the new law that has been little mentioned in discussions.

A licence will be needed in future to obtain ammunition as well as arms. In the past law-breakers could obtain a weapon illegally and buy the necessary ammunition without difficulty in the nearest gunsmiths or from a mail-order firm.

Now that this shortcoming in the law has been eliminated, the Ministry of the Interior believes that wrongdoers will find it hard to obtain ammunition regularly.

There is as yet no black market in ammunition and the police will do all they can to make sure that none is set up. If Bonn's plans materialise, criminals will have plenty of guns in future but no bullets.

Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand

(Weser Kurier, 5 August 1972)

Traffic offenders may still 'donate' fines to charity

A public prosecutor shot himself in Hamburg last January after it had been revealed that he had suspended criminal proceedings in a large number of cases in return for a fine which he then pocketed.

The case prompted the setting up of a parliamentary investigation which was to examine the whole system of imposing fines and distributing the proceeds among deserving organisations.

Its findings are of importance both to the legal authorities in Hamburg and the Federal Republic legal system as a whole. This is also true of a Bill containing government plans to improve current procedure.

The committee of investigation set up in Hamburg uncovered a sink of corruption of considerable proportions. More than a dozen judges and public prosecutors had for years suspended proceedings in motoring as well as industrial and economic cases in return for fines which they ordered should be paid to charities and non-profit-making organisations in which they acted as part-time officials, advisers or paid staff.

Most of the money flowed into the coffers of the League Against Drinking and Driving and the Transport Science Seminar, private organisations whose benefit to the community is dubious but whose benefit to its members working within the legal system is unchallenged.

A remarkable proportion of the fines distributed to these organisations went into the helpful lawyers' pockets in the form of lecture fees or other indemnifications.

Since the Age of Enlightenment Europeans have always found it particularly embarrassing and disgraceful for a judge or any other senior official in the legal system to abuse his office in order to obtain personal advantages.

There are no grounds for assuming that judges here are better or at any rate more incorruptible than the ordinary man on the street. And remember that business life is more than a Sunday school picnic.

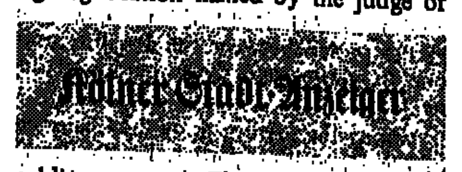
The relative incorruptibility of the legal system and civil servants which people demand and believe in is largely the result of strict laws, regulations and controls that prevent holders of office from being faced with the temptation of acting in return for money or financial advantage.

But this system broke down where the fines procedure was concerned as it allowed judges and public prosecutors to hold sway over a supposedly neutral zone, giving rise to an almost irresistable temptation to abuse their position and feather their own nest.

The regulations applying to criminal cases state that criminal proceedings can only be suspended when the guilt of the offender is minimal and when there is no longer any public interest in prosecuting him.

The public prosecutor can decide to suspend proceedings in minor offences on his own initiative. In more serious cases, or when the main proceedings have already started, he has to obtain the approval of the court.

The law nowhere states that suspending proceedings should be made dependent upon or linked with the payment of a fine. But the general practice developed in Hamburg, Bremen and North Rhine-Westphalia is that criminal proceedings are only suspended when the offender has made a contribution to a non-profit-making organisation named by the judge or



public prosecutor. There are only isolated instances of this practice in other Federal states, if it occurs at all.

This practice, though not supported by the law, is justified by a sense of logic that is as subtle as it is disgraceful. In proceedings where suspension is considered, it is argued, the final doubts about the offender's minimal guilt have often not been cleared up. Doubts of this type can only be overcome when the offender pays a "voluntary" fine to show he regrets his actions.

But how voluntary are the actions of a defendant who weighs up the risk of possible sentence and entry into criminal records against the sum he has to pay his prosecutors in return for an acquittal?

When a man steals a pair of tights from a department store to give to his wife and is not offered the same chance of acquittal because he is only a small fish, what will he think of the fairness of a system of justice that, with the approval of the customs authorities suspends proceedings against a person who has evaded taxes amounting to 1,360,000 Marks in return for the payment of four hundred thousand Marks? This is what happened in Hamburg.

It is obvious to everybody that the legal authorities are guilty of thinly disguised blackmail when they enter into transactions involving the payment of money in return for the suspension of criminal proceedings, irrespective of whether individual judges or public prosecutors take advantage of the system for their own personal profit or not. The Hamburg committee of inquiry has only uncovered the most extreme cases of basically immoral State action.

It would therefore not be too much to hope that the Hamburg authorities responsible would alter previous practice

Continued on page 5

■ GDR

Intra-German talks face testing period

Observing the current intra-German negotiations is like being in a theatre foyer while the actors are on stage – an odd word is heard now and again but nothing can be understood out of context. From the few words heard it is hard to say whether it is a tragedy or comedy that is being performed.

Once again there is a friendly atmosphere after the latest round of talks between State Secretaries Egon Bahr and Michael Kohl. Even East Berlin is optimistic about the progress made.

The Cabinet in Bonn will probably decide soon to stop differentiating between preparatory talks and true negotiations – not that the difference is very convincing anyway. Negotiations can now begin, whatever that may imply.

It obviously implies that the texts can be discussed. But we do not yet know what these texts contain. Careful reading of reports from Bonn reveals that for the past weeks and months only one problem has been discussed – the form of relations between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic.

The reports would suggest that the only problem was whether the two German States should enter into the same type of relations as Australia and Chile or France and Nepal or whether there should be a special relationship based on their common German background.

Without wanting to deny the importance of this issue, it must be remembered that the government originally had something quite different in mind. So-called human easements were to be obtained through negotiations and treaties with the GDR.

The ideal outcome would have been for people, goods, newspapers and books to pass between the two countries free of all restriction as happens between the countries of Western Europe.

It is obvious that this ideal will not materialise because of the anxieties of the Communist rulers. But it is still important to bear this vision in mind. The whole process of Ostpolitik was not set in motion to achieve recognition for the GDR via treaties with Moscow and Warsaw. Chancellor Brandt wanted to do something for the people in Germany.

The great test of Ostpolitik is still to come. It can only be passed if life in our

Hannoversche Allgemeine

divided country becomes more tolerable. It is correct that this aim can only be pursued via negotiations with the GDR. But it is also correct that not all negotiations with the GDR bring us unerringly closer to our goal.

The two negotiators must not take the easy way out and discuss the form of future relations between the two countries. The government must see to this when it gives its orders for negotiations.

The other, greater and more difficult problem of human easements must not be forgotten. But we are hearing very little about this at present. As far as we are concerned, the settlement of future relations between the Federal Republic and the GDR are only of interest if it helps solve the problems of people in Germany.

Apart from that, it is far more in the GDR's interest than ours to reach an agreement on relations between the two countries. Whatever the outcome, the floodgates of international recognition for the GDR will open.

We must look at the situation in a different light than we did a few years back. International recognition of the GDR could still be delayed for some time if we summoned up all our energies. But it cannot be prevented in the long run after everything that has happened in the past three years. The question is whether all the effort is still worthwhile.

There were originally three reasons for not recognising the GDR. Firstly, it was a protest against the fact that the German people's right of self-determination was violated with the establishment of the GDR. It cannot be claimed that the citizens of the GDR wanted to live in a separate State in 1949.

Secondly, it was meant to demonstrate to the world that the German people did not agree to the division and would end it at the first opportunity.

Thirdly, it was meant to ensure that the chance of reunification would not be sabotaged by the Communist rulers in East Berlin. It was to be quite clear that the four Allies bore sole responsibility for the political order in Germany.

These three reasons have little validity today. We know that reunification is not just around the corner. We also know that there can be no new political order in Central Europe without the cooperation of the now strong GDR.

The only thing remaining is the need to continue showing the world that the German people has not come to accept the existing state of affairs indefinitely. The government wishes to achieve this by insisting on a special relationship between the two States who would not for instance be represented by ambassadors in each other's capital but by some sort of commissioner.

Although the political leadership of the GDR opposes such a solution, there is no real reason why basic or even insurmountable obstacles should exist here. In many respects the GDR itself places great store on the fact that a special relationship should continue to exist between the two States.

It does not for example want to lose the advantages resulting from the fact that it is indirectly a member of the European Economic Community because of the backdoor provided by intra-German trade.

Real clash of interests

The optimistic statements made in recent weeks are therefore not really as surprising as many people think. Even though many problems are yet to be solved, it was to be assumed from the very beginning that some solution could be found for the question of relations between Bonn and East Berlin.

The real problems will only begin when the government makes a serious attempt to obtain real improvements in the situation of people in both parts of Germany. There is a real clash of interests here – not between the population of the Federal Republic and the population fo the GDR but between the two governments. Friendly tones from East Berlin do not therefore mean much.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 August 1972)

Nationalisation almost 100%, Bundestag told

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Replying to a question put forward in the Bundestag by the CDU/CSU about the current wave of expropriation in the German Democratic Republic, Karl Herold, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Intra-German Relations, stated that industry is now almost totally nationalised in the GDR.

The current campaign is directed against industrial and building concerns that are still private, against those where the State has a certain holding and against trade cooperatives run on industrial lines. The few private wholesalers still existing are also included.

Pure handicraft concerns, the retail trade, hotels, restaurants and hostels are not affected by the latest measures though there are some exceptions even here.

The Socialist Unity Party states that the campaign has resulted in the formation of almost eleven thousand new nationalised concerns and the inclusion of a further 430,000 blue-collar and white-collar workers in the Socialist sector.

Herold stated that this was the end of a process that had begun when the first wave of expropriation began in what was then the Soviet Zone just after the Second World War. Over 82 per cent of all industrial workers were employed in nationalised concerns last year. This figure has now risen to 99 per cent.

Herold did not fail to point out that those people affected by the new nationalisation measures had, from what is known so far, been subject primarily to psychological and economic pressure. Little is known about the type or amount of compensation.

The nationalisation measures obviously took place without the owner's consent where foreigners or citizens of the Federal Republic were concerned, Herold added.

Compensation is paid into closed accounts. The government is doing all it can to help those affected. One of its aims is to arrange for these closed accounts to be made transferable.

(Handelsblatt, 28 July 1972)

Continued from page 4

and that those responsible in Bonn would pass a law ending the State blackmail of offenders once and for all.

But nothing of the sort is happening. When appearing before the Hamburg committee of inquiry both the Senator of Justice and the head of the Court of Appeal called for the retention of current practice as long as only the State and not individual judges or public prosecutors profited from it.

Minister of Justice Gerhard Jahn completely ignored appeals made to him. He even approved a Bill drawn up by his Ministry enabling the Public Porsecutor's Office to suspend proceedings – even in serious cases – if the court gives its approval and the defendant agrees to contribute money to the State or a non-profit-making organisation.

Hans Schueler

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 August 1972)

Divorce patterns are becoming a headache for planners

Divorce is growing more common in the German Democratic Republic. The number of annulled marriages totalled only 23,000 ten years ago but this figure had already risen to 26,500 by 1965.

Statistics now published reveal that 1971 brought the record figure of 31,000 divorces, almost 3,500 more than in 1970 when the divorce rate was sixteen for every ten thousand inhabitants.

The divorce rate now stands at eighteen for every ten thousand inhabitants, putting the GDR top of the European league table. The number of weddings on the other hand was largely the same as previous years.

Investigations within the GDR reveal that drunkenness is one of the most frequent causes of divorce or separation. Complete sexual equality has also provided a new source of marital conflict.

Although the overwhelming majority of the population approves of sexual equality in theory, there is increasing evidence to show that many people are not prepared to accept the consequences.

The nearer the wedding comes and whenever difficulties crop up in married life, the more likely it is for the prejudices of yesterday to break out, it is claimed.

Despite equal rights to a career and further training, the married woman becomes the housewife in the eyes of her husband. He forgets that both partners must help run the home and raise the children.

Divorce was made easier six years ago by scrapping the principle of guilt. A marriage can now be annulled in the GDR if it has "lost its sense for the married couple, the children and therefore society".

Despite the high divorce rate the present laws are to be retained – divorce is not going to be made more difficult once again. But the present trend causes the GDR authorities a considerable headache. It has been found that divorces and marital conflicts are already beginning to have an effect on society as whole.

It is not only productivity that suffers now and again because of domestic difficulties. The large number of divorces also increase the numbers of people looking for a home.

It was decided to train people for marriage in an attempt to cut the divorce rate. This occurs on a broad basis and for ideological reasons. The rising number of divorces disproves the Communist theory that marriage is more stable in a Socialist community.

At first a campaign was started to clear up false ideas surrounding marriage. Seminars, lectures, television programmes, books and press reports tried to make people think twice before marrying.

Every weekend newspapers print articles warning for example against the attitude that anyone who is sexually mature is also mature for marriage.

Hans Dornbrach

(Nordwest-Zeitung, 25 July 1972)

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Hot money does world trade little good

Major and minor currency crises such as have been cropping up for years with ever greater regularity provide new grounds all the time for all kinds of analyses, statements and prophecies. Of course these monetary upsets are a grave danger and should not be taken too lightly. But if everything that has ever been said on this subject were correct world trade would have collapsed completely long ago.

What we can see with our own two eyes is not necessarily the truth. Despite all the currency unrest and nervousness on foreign exchange markets, despite floods of money from one country to another in wild proportions and State-organised prophylactic measures world trade continues on a high level as ever.

This fact is by no means so astonishing as it might seem at first glance. Economic relationships between countries can in fact be divided into two categories, which can never be entirely separated but are nonetheless quite distinct. There is the traffic of current payments and the traffic of capital.

The former covers payment for all trade in goods and services with other countries by means of foreign exchange. Mainly it covers imports and exports, payments for transportation costs and foreign travel, money transfers by *Gastarbeiter* (foreign workers) to their home countries and other such transactions. In other words current payments are for any tangible thing with a direct or indirect connection.

The other category, the transfer of capital, involves marked financial transactions, such as opening an account with a foreign bank or buying foreign securities.

It is this latter field that is in the main the cause of the currency unrest when floods of capital move from one country to another or among several countries, be it on the lookout for higher interest rates or greater security, be it out of fear of devaluation or in anticipation of revaluation.

But whatever the reasons behind the floods of hot money they can affect the efforts of the afflicted country to stabilise its currency to a great extent. For years countries have been trying to find ways of warding off unwanted influxes of hot money.

It is possible to use methods that are in accordance with a free market economic system such as alterations to rates of interest, adjustments to currency parity, floating and fiscal measures, or to embark on direct State intervention such as controls and bans on the traffic in capital. It is dirigistic measures of this kind that have been on the increase lately, leading to an obvious limitation of convertibility, and they have quite rightly been criticised.

All the same it is important to note that in the whole postwar period in most countries there has not been free transfer of capital, the highest level of convertibility. This applies not only to developing countries, but also to most industrialised nations.

Britain, France, Italy, the Scandinavian countries and Japan, to name but a few, have never completely removed their legal restrictions on the free flow of capital (particularly exportation of capital). They have simply adjusted the restrictions, tightening them up or slackening the reins as their balance of payments dictated.

Even the United States started to apply State control to the free flow of capital to and from other countries some time back. Only two countries had unlimited convertibility until a short time ago – the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland. Now both of these countries are seeking their salvation in the control of capital coming into the country so as to ward off unwanted floods of speculative money.

The great achievement of these two countries in keeping complete liberty of capital transfer for so long is underlined in one way by the fact that free capital transfer is not one of the ideals mentioned in the aims of the International Monetary Fund.

The architects of the IMF obviously considered they would be aiming too high to expect countries to liberalise the transfer of capital. The IMF statute book simply requires that payments and transfers "for current international business" should not be subject to exchange controls of any kind.

As a matter of fact the functioning and flourishing of world trade depends far more on the maintenance of convertibility for current business than on completely free transfer of capital.

This can be seen from the fact that in the past twenty years world trade has developed in a most favourable manner even though, as I have said, many countries exercised exchange controls or indeed introduced them. No country, at least no industrial nation, would dispense with free convertibility on current payments, since without it the country would put itself at a disadvantage in the international division of labour.

Of course the beneficial effect is all the greater when there is completely free traffic of capital since the money can flow into those countries and regions where it will bring about the maximum of production. But it is precisely this useful function that is unfortunately *not* being carried out by the deluge of capital in the latest speculative moves. These capital shifts have nothing of the much vaunted beneficial effects of the free transfer of capital. On the contrary these movements of capital have a disruptive if not destructive effect and it is essential to counteract them. But this can only be achieved effectively when confidence has been restored in the international currency setup.

Hans Roeper

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 July 1972)

Tons of new banknotes in reserve

Among the most closely guarded treasures in the Federal Republic there is a heap of worthless papers. In the electronically protected money vaults of the Bundesbank in Frankfurt there are several tons of banknotes fresh from the presses with a face value of many thousands of millions of Marks. But one expert on money matters in Frankfurt has said that you could not even "buy a pencil" with this money.

It is ersatz currency which the Bundesbank state will be exchanged for the notes at present in circulation if there is a slump in the value of the Mark.

The money is part of "Operation Ersatzserie" which is being treated by bank officials as top secret. Since 19..

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

when preparations for the printing of the emergency money were begun one or two details about it have filtered out from the vaults into daylight. A Bundesbank spokesman confirmed to the Deutsche Depeschen-Dienst that the money existed. It was designed by graphic artist ... Mittrof from Frankfurt.

Mittrof is well-known to experts on this country's banknotes already. He designed the notes of the Bank Deutscher Länder which have been withdrawn from circulation. His 5-Mark design showed Europa and the Bull and he also designed the ... and 100-Mark notes with portraits of Imhof and Muffel.

The ersatz money is described by experts at the Bundesbank as a purely emergency reserve. The Federal Republic must always be prepared to exchange the money in circulation for a new series. It takes about two years to manufacture the total amount of money that would be needed, and there is hardly a central bank in any industrial country that does not have emergency money in its vaults.

The paper money stored in Frankfurt would be brought into circulation if "there were a serious disruption to the circulation of current notes". The serious disruption in mind is a major inflation but the government could call for an exchange of "new notes for old" if the value of the Mark were severely undermined by the circulation of a vast number of counterfeit notes.

Germans have a bad reputation for being the inventors of such an artificial inflation. During the Second World War large quantities of pound notes were printed in Germany with the intention of scattering them by parachute over Great Britain. This fake-money would probably have put a greater strain on the British economy than the war effort. But the Luftwaffe was unable to act as Santa Claus to the British people in this way.

Frankfurt's emergency money is designed as a first series and is in the form of 10, 20, 50 and 100-Mark notes. The design of the notes is largely a secret. The paper was bought from companies dealing in special types of paper in Great Britain and France.

Printing was carried out by the *Bundesdruckerei* (national printers) in Berlin and Giesecke & Devrient GmbH, the Munich printers.

The Bundesbank refuses to divulge how much the substitute money cost to produce or how much the total face value of the notes is. A comparative study gives some idea of the possible volume of cash involved. The total weight of all notes at present in circulation (not coins) is estimated to be something like 600 tons. A goods train of thirty wagons would be needed to shift the lot.

Hans-Heinrich Sausebart

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 July 1972)

Gold speculation could cool down money markets

There is gold fever, a veritable gold rush at the moment, the like of which has never been seen before. Within twelve months the price on the Federal Republic exchange for a kilo of gold has rocketed by 2,324 Marks. On 31 July 1971 the price was 4,726 Marks, but by 31 July this year it had reached the record level of 7,050 Marks.

On international markets the increase in price conforms pretty well to these figures, too. The reasons for this run on gold, which had led to a real boom in the royal metal in recent months particularly, are quite obvious.

There is the worldwide instability of politics, increased tension in the Vietnam War and Middle East conflict among other things) and especially international currency unrest, which are making money people with money to save turn to gold as a sound investment – from the sheikh of territories where the oil flows free to the man in the street who wants to build up a nest-egg.

Recently it has proved clear that everyone appreciates gold as a safe way of investing money, even though it does not bear interest. The yellow metal is still regarded as a solid bastion against the evils of inflation.

Politicians and theoreticians, who, a short time ago, were trying to pass off the fetishism of the rush to gold as a retrograde step and were prophesying nasty surprises for those who speculated in gold have now been proved utterly wrong.

Speculators had a better idea of what they were about. The reduced interest rate on the Eurodollar and Asiadollar markets seemed so unprofitable to them that they quickly switched to gold.

Even though the "barbarous metal" brought them no firm rate of interest they could reckon with an annual rise in price of four to five per cent. Now in fact the increase has been vastly more.

It seems as if gold has taken itself off the money standard. It appears in many deals now virtually as a currency in its own right. This was helped by the West's currency policy which aimed to strip gold of its monetary nature, but was totally unable to limit the importance of the metal. Even though the Bundesbank vehemently denies that the free price of gold is directly connected with the currency policy development, this is so.

The latest development on foreign exchange markets has made it clear that the tendency on the gold market was in contradiction to the currency policy. And yet lately there have been efforts made by the East to make gold once again the basis of the international currency system. The Soviet Union and the Bulgarians are the main protagonists of this move.

Spectacular rises in the price of gold are not entirely due to speculators and hoarders. Industry is constantly making demands for the metal and supply of it is not keeping pace.

In 1971 about 1,350 tons of gold were used in industrial processes, while "only" an estimated 200 tons was hoarded. Only 1,250 tons of gold were mined in the year. Mining of new supplies of the precious metal is likely to stagnate in the years to come, but in three years time it is estimated that industrial requirements will be 1,600 tons over the year.

South Africa produces about eighty per cent of the gold mined in the Western world and has thus virtually a monopoly of the market. For years South Africa was pressed by a balance of payments deficit. But now the republic has freed itself. It is no longer under any pressure to supply the market with all the gold it demands. South Africa is able to cut back supply and thus to a certain extent manipulate the price.

Bonn has made things difficult for the small saver who wants to turn his cash into gold. For some time now there has been an eleven per cent value added tax levied on gold. This is hard to understand, since the importation of gold could help to neutralise the effects of floods of incoming hot money.

Those who want to make large savings through gold turn to Switzerland. There gold can be bought cheaper (no VAT). But the small saver is unable to do so, as he has not got the required contacts. It is thus high time VAT on gold was abolished in the Federal Republic.

Folke W. Friese

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 1 August 1972)

COMMON MARKET

Study group plots causes of EEC price differences



Price differences in the six countries of the EEC have, according to the European Commision in Brussels, "far from levelled out to the degree that might have been expected and hoped for after fourteen years of EEC".

For instance a vacuum cleaner may cost twice as much in Strasbourg as it does just across the Rhine in Kehl in the Federal Republic. GFK, the Consumer, Marketing and Sales Research Organisation in Nuremberg, working on behalf of the EEC Commission, stated that the differences were largely the result of "carefully aimed price and sales procedures by producers and only to a small extent an outcome of trade margins and taxes".

According to the EEC liaison bureau in Bonn the European Commission will, as a result of this research, strengthen its consumer policies.

The bureau reports: "In fact, despite the breakdown of custom barriers and the introduction of free trading in goods and services as well as the uniform system in value added tax the difference in price of the same article in various EEC countries is still quite startling."

The GFK worked on the price variations of 35 consumer items in 1968 manufactured by companies "that have a quite *significant market* position within the EEC". They studied foodstuffs, electrical household goods, radios and tape recorders and photographic equipment. The following discoveries were made in the various sectors.

– As far as electrical household implements are concerned overall shop prices differ by as much as 51 per cent. The Federal Republic is the cheapest country for electrical goods, France the most expensive. The main reason for price variations is that in countries with a high degree of saturation of the market there is "a tendency towards lower prices".

Moreover in the Federal Republic and the Netherlands business is good enough to keep shop prices low. Furthermore retail prices are largely affected by widely diverging trade margins (low in Italy, moderate in the Federal Republic, Belgium and Luxembourg and high in France and the Netherlands).

– Foodstuffs are cheapest in Holland and most expensive in Italy with total price differences over the six countries of 50.9 per cent on average. The main reasons for the divergences are the differing levels of concentration and modernisation of trading in the various countries. Italy has a food shop for every 105 people, the Federal Republic one for every 350. "This allows food producers to fix varying prices for sales to wholesalers". So the overall trade margin in Italy is the lowest at 18.6 per cent, despite Italy's high consumer prices. The Federal Republic has the highest trade margin at 30.8 per cent.

In addition it is asserted that "fixed prices are not synonymous with either high or low consumer prices".

– Radio and television are cheapest in the Federal Republic, dearest in France, in fact 79 per cent dearer. Differing trade structures are a more important factor in determining these higher prices than the variation in the price paid by wholesalers to manufacturers.

The trade margin in Luxembourg and The Netherlands ranges from 33 to 41 per cent, while the fragmented business in Italy shows a margin of only twenty to 21 per cent, the lowest in the EEC. In the Federal Republic, too, the overall trade margin is "relatively small". This, together with the low retail prices, "reflects the high degree of rationalisation and competitiveness in the Federal Republic".

– Cameras are cheapest in the Federal Republic, roll films in France and colour reversal film in Belgium. The differences in retail prices of the cheapest and the dearest EEC country with regard to photographic equipment as a whole is 23.7 per cent. In this sector, too, the differences can be put down to production policies geared to the structure of trade. The business is far more concentrated in the Federal Republic and The Netherlands, comparatively speaking, and this means that purchase prices can be kept low. Trade margins can be kept wide and despite this favourable shop prices are possible.

In this sphere, too, it is confirmed that differing pricing systems (price maintenance or the net price system) have only a minor role to play in the level of the final retail price.

The discoveries made by this study should, according to the Bonn liaison bureau, "certainly have some effect on the future policies of the EEC with regard to industry, competition, regional matters and structure in any case".

Once again it has been shown how important the efforts of the European Commission to bring about standardisation of legal and fiscal matters within the EEC are for the consumer. These efforts are designed to lead to a structure that makes marketing in Europe as unified as in any one country.

Also it has been underlined that stricter application of EEC competitiveness rules is essential to remove all restrictions to and distortions of the free traffic in goods, services, people and capital.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 August 1972)

European patent to cover 21 countries planned

A patenting system common to all European countries could become a reality, according to the proposals made at the governmental conference held between 19 and 30 June this year in Luxembourg involving 21 European countries.

A diplomatic conference will be held to debate the proposals. The diplomats will meet next year in Munich to discuss the various facets of the European patent, and give them their approval.

The agreement provides for the creation of the European Patents Office with headquarters in Munich. The office will issue European patents and deal with objections to patents, and an administrative committee consisting of representatives from all countries covered by the international treaty will act as a watchdog over the Patents Office's work.

The International Patents Office in The Hague will continue in operation as the research department and will be incorporated into the main organisation. It will remain in The Hague.

European patents will be considered the same as national patents in the countries covered by the treaty. They will be subject to the normal provisions of law in the various States.

The period of validity of European patents will be twenty years. All member States will be subject to the same conditions invalidating patents. At any rate States covered by the new proposals will be able to declare their reservations with regard to the period of validity of European patents and their national conditions of invalidity for a transitional period of ten years after the agreement comes into operations.

The procedure for granting patents falls into four sections. There will be the formal testing of new inventions and the simultaneous research into whether the device is novel, the practical testing procedure which will lead to the issuing of a European patent and then the petition and appeal procedure.

Every item put forward for patenting will be passed to a branch office of the European Patents Office in The Hague to check whether it conforms with the usual formalities. At the same time the Office will put the article up to the test of originality. The publication of the announcement of application for a patent – as a rule simultaneous with the judgment of originality – will follow after a period of eighteen months from the date of application, or, if a priority is called for, after the date of priority.

The practical testing of the new device (its patentability, newness, degree of originality and industrial applications) is only carried out at the request of the patentee. Application for practical testing must be made not more than six months from the date of publishing of the European research report in the European Patents Journal.

Appeal against the issuing of a patent can be lodged up to nine months after issue. The European Patents Office is the body responsible for carrying out the appeal procedure.

Objections to the decisions of the European Patents Office can be raised with the appropriate bodies (The Chamber of Petitions and The High Chamber of Petitions).

The draft plan for the setting up of this European Patents Office does not preclude the possibility that a group of countries covered by the agreement might want to enter into special agreements among themselves.

This provision was made with the EEC in mind. Work is at present in progress on drafting the procedure for a European patent for the Common Market.

A further section of the draft plan goes into great detail about the provisions for dealing with international patent applications, based on the agreement signed in Washington on 19 June 1970 with regard to international cooperation in the patents sphere.

All countries covered by the agreement want to see the speedy introduction of a European patent. But the matter does throw up difficult problems of adjustment which are to be solved by periods and provisions of transition. National patents offices could over a period of fifteen years do the work of processing applications for patents in Europe, with their powers and responsibilities being gradually reduced over this period.

If the agreement on the creation of a European system of issuing patents is signed in 1973 the European patents machinery could be in operation, according to estimates, by 1977.

(Handelsblatt, 26 July 1972)

EEC wants to 'release' 200 Eurocrats

WELT am SONNTAG

Berlaymont skyscraper, the headquarters of EEC officialdom in Brussels, is the scene of a good deal of jostling for position of late. As long as the outcome of the plebiscites in Norway and Denmark do not alter plans and there is no change of government in Great Britain in the next few weeks Hogmanay this year will be the time when the original six-strong European Economic Community becomes a Club of Ten.

A long-serving professional Eurocrat hailing from the Federal Republic, for instance, will find that in practice from 2 January 1973 his daily work will not only entail getting to grips with the highly different mentalities of the French, Italians, Dutch, Belgians and Luxembourgers, but will have the added complication of fathoming the British, Danish, Norwegian and Irish way of thinking.

Inasmuch as this Federal Republic EEC official is among the 600 highest ranking, and thus highest paid, European civil servants he is not in fact at all sure at the moment that from 2 January 1973 he will be sitting at his accustomed desk.

Already the brigade of professional Eurocrats is 8,000 strong and in order to prevent it from swelling even more the EEC Commission in Brussels is taking steps to encourage about 200 holders of top-ranking positions in the Community to yield them more or less voluntarily in favour of senior officials from the four applicant countries.

Although the Commission has tried to bring this about with promises of financial recompense which are generous in the extreme so far the effects of its campaign have been just about nil. Instead Berlaymont House is ringing with the slogans of a possible protest strike!

The wage bill for the officials working at the European headquarters will increase by about 34 per cent even in the most favourable circumstances, as the draft budget for 1973 published recently calculates.

The lion's share of the wage bill is taken up by translators and simultaneous interpreters, and this is bound to rise by 75 per cent at the end of the year.

Seven official languages

Whereas organisations such as the United Nations with 132 member States can get by with five official languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese) and Nato with its fifteen member countries needs only two (English and French) the ten-strong EEC will permit itself the luxury of seven official languages (German, French, English, Italian, Dutch, Danish and Norwegian) in which all EEC reports – several thousand each year – must be written.

No one expects every professional European to master seven language quite apart from all the other specialised knowledge they are expected to carry in their heads and so it is generally expected that at Berlaymont House the unofficial language to be used for everyday contacts will be Franglais, a hybrid of French and English.

Bodo Radke

(Welt am Sonntag, 30 July 1972)

■ **POLLUTION**

Genscher aims to institutionalise environmental conservation

Environmental commissioners, Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher feels, ought to be appointed to all Federal Ministries and authorities with the purpose of vetting all government schemes in close conjunction with the proposed Federal Office for Environmental Protection.

In order to assess further the extent of environmental damage the Federal Cabinet has also resolved to introduce an environmental statistics Bill.

The Minister expects the proposed legislation to result in a considerable improvement in the availability of data for environmental planning.

The Bill will empower the Federal Office for Environmental Protection to compile all relevant information and draw up what will amount to a central data index for environmental planning.

At a press conference in Bonn Herr Genscher recalled that the Environmental Affairs Commission had expressly advocated the compilation of additional and more relevant environmental statistics.

Not until all available information on the subject had been compiled could a comprehensive analysis be made and appropriate legislative action be undertaken to combat pollution of the environment, the Minister noted.

The Bill provides not only for the coordination of existing statistics but also for the compilation of supplementary data, including the following: –

– Refuse disposal by local authorities, industry and animal husbanders
– Water supplies and power station effluent disposal
– Effluent disposal in animal husbandry
– Accidents in the storage and transport of substances liable to endanger water supplies
– All investment necessitated by considerations of environmental protection in industry and animal husbandry.

Statistical coverage of public and industrial water supply and disposal is also to be extended.

No provisions have yet to be made for statistics on other environmental hazards, particularly in respect of noise and the atmosphere. These, Herr Genscher stated, will depend on the passage of further environmental legislation.

In this context the Minister mentioned the Atmospheric Protection Bill, which he considers to be particularly urgent, so much as to warrant an emergency session of the Bundestag home affairs committee in order to ensure passage prior to the summer recess.

The additional cost to the Federal and state governments in 1973 of statutory obligations to revise and coordinate existing statistics will be somewhere in the region of four million Marks. Latest estimates suggest that the total cost will be nearer 4.8 million Marks.

Additional measures, Herr Genscher commented, cost money, and this was something people in this country, the work of which in the environmental sector has gained international recognition, must be prepared to accept as necessary expenditure.

By December the Minister also hopes to be able to submit a new draft Water Rates Bill. Herr Genscher reiterated his conviction that those responsible for environmental pollution ought to foot the bill.

He also saw no reason why the additional cost of environmentally more satisfactory products ought invariably to be paid by the consumer. The Minister was of the opinion that environmentally unobjectionable products need not necessarily cost more than their pollutant counterparts.

Hartmut Palmer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 August 1972)

Grit and weedkiller wreck Cologne's tree-lined streets

Road salting has succeeded where exhaust fumes have failed. As in Hamburg, roadside trees have started to die en masse in Cologne. Along miles of highway once-proud fifty-year-old lime trees point accusingly bare branches at the sky this summer. They have not sprung a single leaf.

The general public have already written off the trees as dead. The city authorities, on the other hand, talk in terms of more than 1,000 trees being on the "danger list".

Cologne has commissioned a report by the Rhenish chamber of agriculture on the detailed reasons for the demise of the trees in order to be able to ensure the continued survival of the remaining 44,000-odd trees that line the city's streets.

In preliminary talks following an initial inspection of the dear departed a number of reasons for the sad demise of the lime trees have already been determined.

The major offender is salting of icy roads in the winter. A mixture of chemicals and slush is sprayed by passing cars on to the manhole-sized patches of earth that are frequently all the breathing-space that is left trees in a vast expanse of concrete.

The villains of the piece are the corporation roads department, closely followed by the transport department, which also spreads large amounts of grit between tramlines in winter.

The most desolate victims are indeed to be found in the tree-lined central reservations of green belt roads and boulevards where corporation tramlines extend.

In spring and summer the transport department also sprays the tramlines with substantial amounts of weedkiller, which likewise contributes towards the demise of once-proud trees.

Along these central reservations the tramlines are mounted not on cobbles but on the loose chippings in which railway sleepers are generally embedded and the drainage has been particularly effective over the last two dry years in which the level of the water table has fallen in any case.

Last but not least street markets are to blame, pitches being subjected to regular cleaning with detergent-dosed water, buckets being swilled against nearby trees. A circular is to be distributed among stallholders prohibiting this practice.

The city itself has imposed an embargo on the use of weedkiller until October for the time being. A large number of trees will probably have to be felled nonetheless but a number of others, it is hoped, will recover.

Every tree may be allotted two metres of topsoil free from concrete, it being hoped that this would ensure survival.

Hans Wüllenweber

(Weser Kurier, 27 July 1972)

New methods of spotting oil polluters

Ships' bilges are occasionally pumped free of old oil, an indictable offence that is hard to pinpoint in individual instances. A new method, it is claimed, can swiftly identify environmental offenders of this kind.

Schleswig-Holstein state waterways board has equipped coastal police patrols with new detection devices. As soon as an oil slick is sighted the police take a sample from the slick and from the bilges of the likely offender.

Chemical and photometrical analysis indicates without a shadow a doubt whether the two are identical. Fingerprinting could not be more accurate.

The Schleswig-Holstein police have already taken fifty samples for analysis and secured convictions of offenders.

(Welt am Sonntag, 30 July 1972)

Lakes and rivers too polluted, many believe

Despite summer temperatures people are not bathing as much as they used to according to a survey conducted by the Allensbach market research organisation. The survey showed that lakes and particularly the rivers of the Federal Republic are no longer clean enough for bathing.

Seventy per cent of the people in this country over sixteen years of age believe that the rivers are too polluted, and nineteen per cent are of the view half the rivers are no longer clean enough for bathing. Only three per cent were of the view that the condition of the rivers is good enough for bathing and eight per cent claimed that they were not competent enough to give a reply.

Lakes in the Federal Republic have a better reputation, but almost half the people questioned (46 per cent) said they were too muddy. A further 32 per cent were of the view that lakes were too polluted for pleasant bathing.

The Rhine has the worst reputation for seventy per cent of those asked maintained that the great river was badly polluted and 22 per cent said it was polluted.

The Elbe was also given black marks: 68 per cent maintained it was badly polluted. The Main came off slightly better – only 47 per cent and the Weser only 36 per cent. The Danube has not yet lost its image of the blue Danube. Only 29 per cent claimed that it was badly polluted.

Men are more suspicious of bathing waters than women, those with advanced education than those with normal schooling, the people in Westphalia more so than Bavarians.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 July 1972)

Aerial photos pin-point pollution offenders

Infra-red aerial photographs will, the Association of Ruhr Town Councils hopes, aid atmospheric and water pollution checks and planning.

Ten per cent of the 5,000-odd square kilometre surface area of the Ruhr region have so far been surveyed, heat radiation being measured and recorded on magnetic tape and then transferred to black and white film.

The varying tones of grey, when analysed by experts, reveal details of location and temperature of factories, residential areas, roads and vehicles, not to mention burning slag and garbage tips and effluent in the Rhine.

The association has so far invested 150,000 Marks in the aerial survey conducted by the Offenbach Institute of Applied Geo-Science (Aero Exploration).

Night-time photographs of the Bochum trunk road cloverleaf indicate that traffic surveys will in future be feasible overnight, hot engines being registered as light spots on the infra-red exposures.

The experts have even tried their hand at analysing aerial photographs of the parking lots at the Bochum Opel works, determining the length of time cars are parked and judging from the extent their engines have cooled down whether they belong to shift-workers or white-collar staff.

Heat registration is sensitive enough to distinguish objects four by one metre in surface area and in residential areas and shopping complexes differences in heat radiation have been compared as a means of assessing the efficacy of insulation of buildings.

Burning slag heaps, a particular nuisance in the Ruhr, will, it is hoped, be pinpointed with the aid of improved infra-red equipment. The same goes for garbage tips fermenting on the outskirts of urban areas.

Aerial heat measurements have already successfully recorded the length and temperature of steaming effluent pumped into the Rhine near Duisburg.

Fritz-Hellmut Hirt of the Ruhr Town Councils Association points out the risks that may arise from the projected chain of power stations along the Rhine once warm cooling-water is pumped back into the river.

Were critical temperatures to develop, measurements could promptly be taken by air along the whole length of the Rhine from Basle in Switzerland to the Dutch estuary.

Friedrich Kassebeer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1972)

Ships may help revitalise inland waterways

Surprisingly simple rescue operations may prove sufficient to ensure the biological survival of the Rhine and other polluted rivers and inland waterways, according to the Inland Waterways Research Institute of Duisburg.

Operations are to be conducted by the ships that ply the rivers, lakes and canals in question. The oxygen vital for the survival of vegetation is to be pumped into the water via the ship's propellers.

Initial trials have just been launched by the institute and commissioned by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

In this new experiment designed to ensure the biological survival of inland waterways, a vital factor is that all motorised vessels plying them have compressors on board.

The idea is to channel compressed air to the ship's screw. It will be pumped from a jet mantle in the screw's housing and churned around by the screw's rotation.

According to the Duisburg boffins this oxygen churning procedure is already theoretically practicable but the technical problems remaining to be solved will take at least two years to deal with.

Above all the oxygen must be fed to the water in such a way as to ensure that the vessel does not loose momentum. Also, no one is yet sure how much oxygen remains "down below" to enrich the water.

Not until exact measures have been taken will it be possible to state how great a benefit for underwater flora and fauna can be expected to result from this aquarium effect.

The specialists are definitely of the opinion, however, that provided tax incentives were given to ensure the implementation of the principle the quality of water in navigated rivers, lakes and canals could be improved.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 July 1972)

THE ARTS

Youth fetish, death dread at Leverkusen exhibition

Only a poet – and an old poet at that – could have said, "Those whom the gods love die young." To be young and stay young is important. Death to old age and everything old.

Let's not speak of death. You only live twice. It's always other people who die – and then mainly the old. Death is literature – *Death in Venice*. Death is cinema – *Death of a Salesman*. There is a long list of cliches associated with death.

Fetisch Jugend – Tabu Tod (Youth as a Fetish – Death as Taboo) is a good title for an exhibition wishing to show how our society is captivated by youth and how it banishes death from its midst.

It shows how youth has become an ideology and death its basic enemy. Fetish and Taboo, youth and death, affect all of us. As this is the case and as they surround is in all spheres of life, it cannot only be the task of art and the artist to develop this theme.

Rolf Wedewer and Thomas Kemper, the organisers of the exhibition in Schloss Morsbroich, Leverkusen, have therefore adopted the same method as they did in an exhibition they put on last year – *Die Puppe – Aspekte zum Bild der Frau* (The Doll – Factors in the Image of Woman).

As the problem is social, they have adopted a form of presentation combining pictures and exhibits, posters and quotations, photographs and statistics. Has this combination succeeded? Does the material provide enough stimulus?

Two objects by Timm Ulrichs, his *Old Age Pyramid* (1970) and *General German Mortality Table* (1960/62) give rise to the fear that there is going to be a lot to read when going round the exhibition.

But there is nothing important to read, a fact that is demonstrated at the entrance to the exhibition where visitors are confronted by a plaque stating: "Statistically, a person dies in Europe with every stroke of lightning." Anyone ignorant of the statistics or the frequency of thunderstorms in Europe will cross the threshhold with a hollow feeling in the pit of his stomach.

Youth as a fetish – this applies mainly to the sales and advertising world, to consumer behaviour and the evaluation of performance. "Our creativity quotient is 97.3 per cent as our average age is 27.8," is the slogan under which one advertising agency tries to attract clients.

"No applicants over 38," can often be read in the positions vacant columns of the local press. But what if a person is older than 38? "You are never too old," an advertisement states by way of encouragement.

A medicament claiming to increase potency promises to "conquer old age". Mel Ramos' "Camella" Girl is as slim and exciting as the filter cigarettes she is advertising. Next to the advertising posters are record sleeves in pop-art style. One of them depicts a skeleton wearing a top hat – the death trip begins.

The death trip is not so merry. There are photographs of old folks' homes and nursing homes, of old people alone or queuing up in post offices with pension book in hand. In between there are Karl Heidelbach's pictures depicting the tristesse of pensioners at a loss how to spend their days and Johannes Grützke's scornful etching *Who'd be ill?*.

The question is justified in this country. Fees amount to between 758 and 1,326 Marks a month in new old folks' and nursing homes. The average pensions insurance scheme pays workers 566 Marks (181.60 Marks for women) and salaried staff 854.40 Marks (386.60 Marks for women).

"Of all the facts of life," Proust once wrote, "old age is perhaps the one of which we retain a purely abstract idea the longest." Even the most relevant statistics displayed in the exhibition were unable to give more than an abstract idea.

We read that thirteen per cent of the population of the Federal Republic was over 65 in 1970, that this percentage is continually increasing and that by 1980 there will be a shortage of 36,000 beds in North Rhine-Westphalia alone for old folks needing care.

We read sociologists' reports about the isolation of the old and gerontological findings – but we do not realise what life in an old age ghetto is like. It is only for instance Jürgen Brodwolf's sheet metal and tin peep-show that enables us to see what an old people's home and what a hospital ward look life.

Now that youth and old age have been dealt with, the whole of the upper storey is devoted to death and the taboos surrounding death in our society. There are photographs of funerals – pompous State funerals and the mass production at crematoria.

Before this largely meaningless ritual there is the fear of death, the indequate help given to the dying and the collective suppression of the subject in both word and deed.

There are depictions of death today. We no longer see a man with a scythe or God Almighty. Our dances of death are cooler, more anonymous and more ironic – Joachim Bandau's stiff synthetic figures wearing false limbs, Abakonowicz's black dolls, Christine Meschede's dummies wrapped in polyethyline foil, Andy Warhol's empty *Electric Chair*, Diter Rot's mould-covered *Island Landscape* and Curt Stenvert's crate containing spare body parts in answer to the new medical belief in immortality.

In the next room we learn that Salvador Dali will be one of the first artists that American scientists will freeze after death. Next to this statement we see a glass case containing a doll covered in ice cubes. This is only one example of the helplessness found in a number of cases where the theme of the exhibition is only illustrated.

Writing tables bearing the photographs displayed by office and managerial types are just as gimmicky – and so is the final room: a chamber of horrors or meditation, draped with black curtains and in one corner displaying a plaque that reads: "We insure ourselves against everything. We prepare ourselves for everything. But what about DEATH? "

Underneath there are two mirrors in which the scared visitor can see himself as the final object and actual subject of this exhibition when he sets off an invisible mechanism.

The lighting effects in this sombre room do not prompt shock or enlightenment. In fact this is a criticism that can be made of most of the exhibition. If we are to be confronted by "parallel picture worlds" – and this idea is good – why shouldn't the exhibition display documents of our funeral rites, obituaries and the kitsch that surrounds burials? There is indeed a series of slides showing how the eldery arrange their funerals.

The weaknesses of this exhibition range from the crashed motor-cycle with the symbolic registration number TO – D 593 (Tod is German for death) to the alarmingly naive ideological statement by Rolf Schwendter: "The interest in other people's deaths in repressive capitalist society can be overcome by Socialism which promises solidarity." Death, where is thy sting? It could hardly be felt here in magnificent Schloss Morsbroich.

Peter Sagar

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 30 July 1972)

Film booklet

This year's Cannes Film Festival saw as large an entry from West Germany as from the "big film nations". Five films from this country are to be seen at the Festival being held between 4 and 19 May: Peter Fleischmann's *Das Unheil*, Johannes Schaaf's *Trotta* and the Pole Jerzy Skolimowski's *King, Queen, Jack* vied for the Golden Palm, and Peter Schamoni's short *Friedhelm Hundertwassers Regentag* was shown in the Great Festival Hall.

In addition the collective work of Rainer Etz, Gisela Tuchtenhagen and Klaus Wildenhorn *The Hamburg Uprising 1923* was selected for the International Critics Week, the event that gave Fleischmann his big come-uppance three years ago with *Jagdszenen aus Niederbayern*.

(Die Welt, 19 July 1972)



Theatre puppets on show in Munich

The rarest mechanical [illegible] that hobby craftsmen had created over the centuries are now on display at the [illegible] "Mechanical Games and Theatres" in Munich. Some 500 exhibit pieces belong to the Munich puppet show theatre, others have come from museums and private collections. They all offer an impressive survey of the inventiveness and fantasy of their creators. The visitors are able to see that technical gadgets and trifles are just as popular today as they were years ago. (Photo: Keystone)

Programme for this year's Berlin Jazz Festival announced

The 1972 Berlin Jazz Festival from 1 to 5 November – it is lasting one day longer than usual – will consist of seven concerts providing an outline of the modern jazz scene with all the styles that are still important today.

The first concert on 1 November – "London Music Now" – is devoted to the British avant-garde that has become increasingly important in recent years.

The London Jazz Composers Orchestra formed by bass-player Barry Guy and consisting of most of the leading musicians of modern British jazz will be performing along with the five most well-known avant-garde groups in Britain including the Tony Oxley Sextet, the Howard Riley Trio and the Iskra 1903 Group formed by trombonist Paul Rutherford.

The second day is devoted to mainstream jazz. A jam session ensemble has been formed for organist Jimmy Smith. Well-known soloists like the two trumpeters Clark Terry and Art Farmer and the two tenor-sax players Johnny Griffin and Illinois Jacquet will "jam" in the style of "Jazz at the Philharmonic".

The main attraction at this concert will probably be the Cannonball Adderley Group which has become more interesting for the Berlin audience because of the inclusion of pianist Georgie Duke who became famous with Frank Zappa's *Mothers of Investition*.

The third day is devoted to "Encounters" between the rock music influenced by jazz and other musical spheres. Sarod player Ali Ahkbar Khan, one of the most famous soloists of Indian music, will perform alongside saxophonist John Handy, a product of the San Francisco scene. Norwegian guitarrist Terjo Rypdal will be presenting his new group which combines elements from jazz, rock and modern concert music.

The fourth day – "The Art of the Solo" – will illustrate one of the most welcome developments in the jazz scene in recent years: the trend towards unaccompanied solos. The traditional rhythm group does not make an appearance.

This concert will be of soft chamber music style and break away from the predominant trend towards electronically amplified music. Gary Burton, Chick Corea, Gunter Hampel, Pierre Favre and John McLaughlin will be among the performers.

Burton has often appeared at the Berlin Jazz Festival and given impetus to the development of the unaccompanied solo and this time he will form a duo ensemble with pianist Chick Corea.

In the evening concert that follows Dave Brubeck will be making his first appearance in Europe with his two famous soloists – baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan, with whom he has been linked in recent years, and alto saxophonist Paul Desmond with whom he achieved his international success in the fifties and sixties.

The sixth concert – the "Piano Conclave" on 5 November – will have a workshop atmosphere and create a orchestra for keyboard instruments for the first time in the history of jazz.

Well-known pianists from Europe and the United States will play in this orchestra, among them Herbie Hancock, Joe Zawinul, Joachim Kühn, Gordon Beck and Wolfgang Dauner. They will perform under the direction of George Gruntz.

The Jazz Festival will end with two classicists in the Jazz world – Sonny Rollins and Charles Mingus. Mingus celebrated his international comeback at the 1970 Jazz Festival.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 3 August 1972)

PERFORMING ARTS

Isang Yun's Korean fairytale opera premiered in Munich

Isang Yun's opera *Sim Tjong*, chosen by the Staatsoper in Munich for the opening of the season was selected showing a fair degree of tact. The opera commissioned by the Munich opera house, fulfills public demands which called for something unusual to start the season in the year of the Olympic Games. What was required was a work that would present 'world' culture, a masterly mixture of eastern and western musical ideas, not something that would be an insult to public opinion, but a socially acceptable piece. This opera is a static work taken from a Korean legend that offers opportunities for Asian splendour and extravagance, colour and form and a title role for a singer that is of the highest artistic quality.

A European composer would probably never have dared to use traditional legend material for a modern opera. Korean Isang Yun, who for the past 15 years has lived and worked in Berlin, can work without these scruples.

The charm of Asian fairy-tales involving the Buddhist-Taoist field of thought has lost none of its influence since it first came to Europe with the *Jugendstil* movement. And for this Isang Yun is the ideal composer. Writing for only a few exotic instruments he convincingly creates the texture of Oriental music.

The story deals with the learned Sim who is blind and has a child by his dying wife after twenty years of married life. This child, Sim Tjong, the heavenly ones had created to be the daughter of Man.

Kieler Nachrichten

The daughter lives only for her father, refusing to marry a wealthy man and finally in order to fulfill a selfish oath made by her father she offers herself as hostage to the dragon king of the seas and is prepared to die. She is brought before the emperor on a lotus blossom who chooses her to be his wife and has her father brought to him. Sim in the meantime has forfeited all his wealth and is wandering about lost. Then Sim sees that he has been selfish, he wants to see again and goes out to meet his dead wife who is now in heaven.

Jürgen Rose's scenis design is more epic than dramatic framed with the constantly changing choir of the heavenly ones in magical colours. There is nothing constructed on the stage, everything is only hinted at following oriental art traditions.

Lilian Sukis commands the opera playing the part of Sim Tjong. She is beautiful, tender and when she is the re-born angel she sings with a vibrant beauty. She is ideally suited for the part.

Günther Rennert avoids everything that smacks of European dramatic art. The scenes follow on evenly like a still flowing river. Diction was very good particulary William Murray in the role of Sim and Hortha Töpper singing the part of the neighbour Paeng Dok, sometimes they used recitative and then pure speech.

Isang Yun's penchant for the higher regions of the tonal scale became sometimes monotonous but the charming musical fairytale won the day, in the end, the story of the victory of the weak over the strong, the soft over the hard, and the constant flow of the musical web.

The opening of the Munich opera with this work should bring success in the Olympics year.

H. Lehmann

(Kieler Nachrichten, 3 August 1972)



A scene from Isang Yun's opera *Sim Tjong* (Photo: Felicitas Timpe)

Federal archives play important part in historical research

The Federal Archives in Koblenz, celebrating their twentieth birthday this June, have a record of the most recent period of German history, including the Third Reich, c omprising 30,000 metres of paper neatly filed, private papers, 20,000 kilometres of film, as well as recorded tapes, records, books, pictures, posters and cards.

Various outside agencies have undertaken special projects for the archives. In Frankfurt extant files from the days of the Reich are collected, the military archives in Freiburg have the sum total of documented items from the days of the Prussian army to the present day, personal documents of people attached to the Wehrmacht are kept at Kornelimünster, near Aachen, and at the St

Neue Hannoversche Presse

Augustin archives near Bonn ministerial papers from the early days of the Federal Republic have found a home.

Historians interested in Germany's recent past are helped by extensive collections of private literary remains, published and unpublished material from the political parties, employers associations and other such organisations.

The Ministry of the Interior in Bonn describes the archives, which are subordinated to it as an important research centre of historians tackling modern German affairs.

Numerous histories and important scientific publications have been published by the archivists or with their assistance.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 29 July 1972)

Negro Ensemble's *Dream of Monkey Mountain* in Munich

DIE WELT

The Negro Ensemble Company has been to Munich, following on the Kabuki Theatre from Tokyo, and presented the the phantasmagoria *The Dream of Monkey Mountain*, one of its most effective productions. It was written by Derek Walcott from Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Theatre-goers who expected to see a dramatic representation of racial hatred as manifest in North America were disappointed but they did see good theatre.

The piece tells the story of the dream of a Negro thrown into jail because of his alcoholism and generally disturbed nature who in his nightmares suffers. This Negro, named Makak (Roscoe Lee Browne) sets out with two vagabonds from the neighbouring cell, the warden, a mulatto corporal (Ron O'Neal) and his friend, crippled jester-like character and a rogue named Moustique (Antonio Fargas) on a journey into a imagined country in Central Africa. He appeals to a white moon goddess who has told him that his family descends from kings and lions. Moustique succeeds in convincing the Africans that Makak is more than a faith-healer and miracle-worker. The scenes change rapidly from dream to reality, from Africa to the prison cell, from penury to royal riches, from the depth of loneliness to the household of a prince with warriors and women. Drama, story-telling, pantomime and dance are presented.

The Negro Ensemble Company arriving at Munich airport (Photo: Keystone)

And over all, from each change from one to the other there is the omnipresente of the imagined world of the mighty caribbean moon, of death and the Queen of the Night, of the daydreams and the myths of the black people – all that has a religious flavouring with social or political badeground.

Folklore has an element of naivete, of *Kitsch*, of disbelief in the material and an overall lack of anticedents – from O'Neill to Fiddler on the Roof – in the landscape of modom thbatre, and so authors who write works such as this which is not a woebegone mixture of the tragic and the grotesque, have created the source of something new from the theatre of the Negro. The power of voices is here presented with pathos and sentimentality

When Makak chokes the Corporal in his role as warden, he lies dead and then stands up and says: "You don't need to feel sorry. I'm alive." There is much irony in the piece and we are conscious that it is a 'play'. The spell is completely broken when the women whom Moustique has betrayed trample on him, when they act a pantomime in the jungle land of the apes or take part in an erotic war dance in honour of Makak's kingship. At this point the work transcendy opera and becomes closely related to the sympols of power and worthiness, of fertility and death.

Vitality and natural talent

The Negro Ensemble Company has had difficulties making this work contemporary. Walcott's English is not the English spoken in North America and the creole dialect corresponds but poorly with the jargon of Harlem. But the vitality of the actors, dancers and musicians in the group makes it all credible. An actor like Browne matches well an actor like Shmuel Rodensky.

The natural talent of Negroes for the dance, for theatre and music is so distant from our talents that an encounter with them in this sphere leads to where myth and art are one. Political theatre and popular drama here mingle to form one.

Curt Hohoff

(Die Welt, 3 August 1972)

■ MEDICINE

Hanover centre provides a home for the blind and deaf

Sybille, an eighteen-month-old blue-eyed Goldilocks, was sitting in her playpen sobbing and vigorously sucking her thumb from time to time. "She's hungry," the nurse said, bringing her a bottle.

But Sybille displayed no reactions. She neither raised her head nor tried to take the bottle in her hands . . . Sybille cannot see or hear — she is both deaf and blind, a fate she shares with 150 other children and 450 adults in the Federal Republic.

They form a small minority that suffer greater disadvantages than any other group. They are automatically forced out of the mainstream of society if they are not given special help.

But there is a hopeful sign that these deaf and blind people have not been forgotten. The most modern deaf and blind centre in the world opened up in the Hanover suburb of Kirchrode in autumn 1971. Since then it has acted as the home, school, place of work and leisure centre of 45 deaf and blind persons. Sybille is its youngest inhabitant.

Karl-Heinz Baaske, an educationalist specialising in the teaching of the deaf and blind for the past quarter of a century, was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the centre and is now its head.

Explaining the reason for his actions, he stated: "It is important to encourage deaf and blind children as early as possible. As they can neither see nor hear they have no idea of space and are unable to express themselves through the medium of language.

"They live in complete isolation and they can only escape if they manage to make themselves understood by means of braille, sign language or even spoken language learned via artificial methods. They must learn to see and hear with their hands."

The centre offers many deaf and blind persons their first chance in life. Michael for instance lived in complete isolation in Berlin before coming to Hanover at the age to sixteen.

He can still hear a little and see minimally but he had been a patient in an infirmary among the sick and dying. Nobody knew what to do with him.

The centre, standing near the Eilenriede forest, consists of a kindergarten, school, vocational college, workshops, an adult hostel and sports grounds. Twenty adults and 25 children from all over the Federal Republic already live there. When the centre is completely equipped and enough staff is available, it will be able to cater for 32 children and 65 adults — a total of 97 inhabitants.

The children live in eight "family wards." Four children should live and learn in each of these wards. The 176 square metres of each are divided into two dormitories, a community centre with playing and eating facilities and a small kitchen, a bathroom, a room for individual tuition and a staff room. The staff consists of a matron, a teacher, an assistant woman teacher and a nurse.

The eight wards are recognised as an alternative to State schools under the Lower Saxony Private Schools Law and the Federal state pays the teachers' salaries.

Most of the costs for the pupils are covered by the social welfare office and other welfare organisations. The parents are asked to pay between 60 and 112 Marks according to their financial ability. In some cases they do not need to pay anything at all.

One of the teachers, Rolf Horstmeier who is also Michael's teacher, describes the methods used at the school: "Ten per cent of our children are completely deaf and blind while the others still have some residual sight or hearing. That is why we give individual tuition. Teaching is always tailor-made to the infirmity."

Technical teaching aids are a great help. There is for instance the monophometer, an apparatus that converts various sounds into vibrations, encouraging the pupils to speak. Hearing aids are used in cases where there is some sense of hearing.

Amplifying equipment is to be found in all wards for those children with a certain degree of hearing. Stereo equipment in the rhythm room should stimulate the feeling for rhythm. Tactile exercises and games of movement are other important elements in the curriculum.

A five-year-old girl crawled under a row of chairs in the gymnasium. She pulled herself laboriously from chair-leg to chair-leg. "This is not just a gymnastic exercise," a physiotherapist explains. "The child must gain a feeling for movement and learn to find a sense of direction." Touch exercises are also indispensable. They allow children to grasp their environment both figuratively and literally.

"Most of these children are mentally sound," Rolf Horstmeier reports. "Neither their parents nor brothers and sisters are blind or deaf. Forty per cent of all deaf and blind babies are born to mothers who contracted German measles during pregenance. Many of them are of above-average intelligence."

There is for instance Petra, a pretty seventeen-year-old blonde. She has no sense of hearing but she does possess residual sight — she can distinguish between light and darkness.

Because of this she was able to attend a deaf and dumb school. She was later taught in the deaf and dumb section of the Lower Saxony School for the Blind in Hanover. Since autumn 1971 she has been living — and learning — in the deaf and blind centre in Kirchrode.

"Petra would like to become an assistant here," Karl-Heinz Baaske reports. "She is making such good progress that she will soon be able to attend classes at a school of nursing — with the help of her mother who will sit by her throughout lessons."

Petra likes playing pin machine football with Michael. Anyone looking at the two as they play would think that they had normal sight and hearing. The balls are skilfully shot into the goals.

Petra is asked a question by means of the Lorm touch alphabet. Her teacher takes her right hand palm upwards and quickly touches a number of points between the wrist and fingertips.

Petra concentrates fully on what his fingers are "saying". She then nods to show she has understood and answers in the painstakingly learned guttural language of all deaf and blind people: "Michael won, I haven't won a game so far today."

This touch alphabet is the basic means of communication. Technology too provides other ways of making oneself understood. Anyone wishing to visit one of the deaf and blind adults in their individual flats with both bathroom and balcony only has to press the button at the front door and a ventilator is set in motion. The draught shows the deaf and blind person that someone wishes to come in.

The centre is not yet complete. The training programme for the deaf and blind adults will not begin until next autumn. By that time a three-storey building containing workshops and hobby-rooms will be fully operational. It will be used as a vocational college for the young and as a rehabilitation centre for adults.

But what career opportunities do the deaf and blind possess? "They can work in applied art," Karl-Heinz Baaske states, "and produce jewelry or weave baskets. They can also make brushes and brooms, act as masseurs or work in industry." Industry in the Hanover area sometimes commissions the centre to do various work.

The centre is an international prototype for institutions of this type. The residents are therefore used to visitors. The seventy-year-old man from Stuttgart who has always been deaf and blind and has now moved in must have said to many of them by means of the touch language: "Come again soon, it's so nice here."

Uta-Brigitte Fromhagen

(Der Tagesspiegel, 30 July 1972)

Doctors call for less school pressure on children

The Doctors, Dentists and Apothecaries Press Bureau in Baden-Württemberg, normally thought of as a conservative body, has called for the present six-day week in most schools to be reduced to five and appealed for less emphasis to be placed on performance.

The bureau welcomed the decision by the Stuttgart Education Ministry to extend five-day-week trials to 48 schools after the summer holidays.

Citing reports concerning children's health — especially alarming reports from paediatricians — the doctors oppose the wishes put forward by teachers and other educationalists to make up for the lost Saturday morning by arranging classes on weekday afternoons.

The doctors' appeal to schools seems to have been written in a spirit of anger. Medical evidence shows that the syllabus should have been restricted a long time ago, they claim.

Schools must stop considering themselves as first and foremost providers of knowledge. They should give priority to the educational ability of learning and grasping facts in their proper context and not place so much emphasis on purely specialist knowledge.

"Wanting to stuff pupils with all the knowledge of life during his school career is both pointless and detrimental to the child," the doctors claim.

The excessive demands placed on children and the hierarchy based on performance often leads to behavioural disorders, especially in those cases where performance is only middling if not downright bad.

The doctors agree here with the view of psychologists who state that schools treating performance as the sole criterion of a child's ability only raise insecure, resentful, subordinate and neurotic adults.

But they also attack another guilty party — the parents' desire for prestige and their probably well-intentioned concern that their children will miss many opportunities if they do not attain a higher standard of education.

Even children with a healthy intelligence display a provoking drop in performance when judged solely according to grade. The best way to improve performance is to decrease pressure and increase the child's self-confidence.

Walter Pfuhl

(Die Welt, 22 July 1972)

New publication gives advice on dyslexia

Taking the average of the widely varying figures put forward by a number of surveys, about eight per cent of all second-year schoolchildren are remarkably weak in reading and writing despite their intelligence and good performance in other subjects.

These children suffer from dyslexia. Their typical symptoms are omissions from and additions to works, senseless word formations, guess-work, confusing similar-looking letters and switching the order of sounds in a word or sentence.

This disorder is not due to any organic deficiencies, lesser intelligence or unfavourable conditions in the world around them but the reasons for it have not yet been satisfactorily explained.

Dyslexia, like all striking features deviating from the norm, can stigmatise a child and force him into the role of outsider. If not recognised and treated early enough, it can therefore lead to serious mental damage and social isolation.

But dyslectics can be helped by the diagnostic and therapeutic methods now available. However, some children are not given help soon enough because teachers know too little about the complaint.

> **Helmut Tamm:** ***Die Betreuung legasthenischer Kinder*** **(Taking Care of Dyslectic Children). Published by Verlag Beltz of Weinheim, Berlin and Basle. pp 196. Price: 7.80 Marks.**

It was this state of affairs that led Helmut Tamm to publish a paperback describing his experiences in diagnosing and treating dyslectic children. The book is intended as a guide to educationalists.

Tamm described the various factors encouraging the development of dyslexia, outlines the broad range of symptoms and distinguishes between dyslexia and other difficulties in reading and writing that are often confused with the complaint. Unfortunately, this section is rather too short and imprecise despite its interest to readers concerned with the problem.

Tamm does however deal more extensively with methods of early diagnosis and help that can be given to dyslectic children. Adequate aid can only be given when the present system of giving the affected children individual tuition within the framework of the class is extended.

Group therapy, reading and writing classes, special schools and individual psychological care are indispensable if many dyslectic children are to be helped in conquering the regressive and neurotic reactions resulting from anxiety and inferiority complexes.

A number of letters drawn up by Tamm in consultation with educational psychologists show how teachers can advise parents who are too impatient with their dyslectic children or show no understanding for their complaint.

Although some problems could have been given more intensive treatment, Tamm's book is a useful guide to educationalists.

Iris Paks

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 July 1972)

EMBO comes to Heidelberg

EMBO, the European Laboratory for Molecular Biology, will be located in Heidelberg, the Federal Science Ministry has informed the city. Mayor Reinhold Zundel stated that the research centre — backed by the Federal Republic and eight other Western European countries — will involve total expenditure amounting to 75 million Marks.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 12 July 1972)

■ PROFILE

Gregor Mendel — a biologist disregarded in his own times

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Gregor Mendel's career is one of the most remarkable stories in the history of science. Working alone he eventually made a decisive discovery that was completely ignored for 34 years. Today the same importance is attached to Mendel's botanical work as to Darwin's research.

Mendel began this work in 1856. For the next ten years he crossed varieties of the garden pea and observed how simple characteristics such as size, colour of blossom and the shape of the seeds were inherited. What is of special importance is that he dealt only with pure pedigrees.

As peas are self-pollinating, Mendel painstakingly removed the stamens of the blossom and applied foreign pollen. He protected each of the 5,527 plants he used in his experiments by surrounding them with gauze and greaseproof paper. Mendel recorded the results of his experiments with mathematical accuracy.

The characteristics appearing in the offspring were termed dominant. Features that were no longer found in the hybrids produced he termed recessive. If these first-generation hybrids were allowed to self-pollinate, some of the offspring had dominant characteristics while others had recessive characteristics.

Of the 5,527 offspring originating from the various hybrid plants 4,114 had dominant characteristics while 1,338 had recessive characteristics. This is a ratio of three to one.

In the third generation Mendel found that a quarter of the second generation had the characteristics of one of its grandparents, a quarter had the characteristics of the other grandparent and one half were hybrid, amounting to a ratio of 1:1:2.

His findings, later summarised as Mendel's Law of Inheritance, also apply to Man and the other animals. He informed the Naturalist Association in Brünn (today Brno) in the spring of 1865 of his findings and published them under the Association's auspices in 1866.

Although Mendel sent his 47-page dissertation *Experiments with Hybrid Plants* to the largest libraries in Europe and America, the results he hoped for did not materialise.

This lack of response may be due in part to the fact that Mendel excluded the possibility of any variation in the characteristics he had found while all other biologists of the period looked for variations illustrating natural selection.

Mendel also wrote personally to the most famous biologists of the time, the Swiss botanist Carl Wilhelm von Nägeli, then professor at Munich University, and gave him an extensive report on his research. He even sent seed samples to Munich.

Nägeli's main field was that of evolution. In his main work *Theory of Evolution*, published in 1884, he rejected Darwin's ideas about chance and the struggle for existence.

But Nägeli could not see the wood for the trees. This eminent scholar knew too many exceptions and did not take Mendel's report seriously. Botany and mathematics seemed to him to be remote from each other. "You also probably consider the formulae as empirical since they cannot be proved rational," Nägeli wrote to Mendel.

Mendel became the abbot of a monastery in 1868 and found little time up to his death in 1884 to devote himself to further scientific research, not to mention breeding experiments in the small monastery garden.

His only activity was meteorology. He took measurements several times a day at fixed hours and sent them to the Austrian Meteorological Association which he himself had helped to found.

Mendel's work was not re-discovered until 1900 when Carl Erich Correns of Tübingen, de Vries of Amsterdam and Tschermak of Vienna, all leading researchers, came to the same conclusions as Mendel.

"I considered all this as something completely new," Correns reported in his dissertation. "But I have to recognise that Gregor Mendel reached the same results as de Vries and myself in the 1860s in Brünn."

T.H. Morgan, the discoverer of the gene, founder of Mendelism-Morganism and famous for his fly experiments, wrote in 1936: "During the ten years Mendel worked on his plants in the monastery garden, he made the greatest biological discovery to have been made in the last fifteen hundred years."

Johann Mendel (he did not assume the name Gregor until entering the Augustine order in Brünn in 1843) was born in Heinzendorf in the north-eastern strip of the Sudetenland on 22 July 1822 — 150 years ago. The parish wrongly records the date 20 July 1822 — nobody knows why.



Gregor Mendel
(Photo: Staatsbibliothek Berlin)

He was ordained in 1847, started teaching Greek and mathematics at a school near Brünn in 1849 until he failed his teaching examinations. Biology, of all subjects, was what let him down.

Afterwards his abbot sent him for two years to Vienna to study science there. It has been said that he failed his teaching examinations a second time but there is evidence today to show that he never attended them but departed at short notice.

In 1854 he became a professor at the newly-established university in Brünn to where Mendel's ancestors had emigrated from Swabia more than four hundred years previously. Mendel stayed at the university until his appointment as abbot fourteen years later.

Otto Tappen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 July 1972)

■ OUR WORLD

Airships make a comeback

Frankfurter Allgemeine

ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND



The Flying Musketeer in its Mülheim, Essen, hangar (Photo: AP)

Airships that reached their zenith and their nadir in the years between the two world wars are again a talking point. A new airship has been built at the Essen-Mülheim airport. Thirty five years after the Hindenburg catastrophe a silver-grey baby zeppelin ushers in a small renaissance of a dramatic era.

In a huge hangar that itself looks like a zeppelin 'The Flying Musketeer' waits for a favourable wind. It is 60 metres long and will be inflated with 54,000 cubic metres of helium. Two Continental engines capable of developing 220 hp, similar to those used for sports planes, will allow the zeppelin to achieve speeds of 100 kph. Six passengers can accompany the captain and co-pilot in the zeppelin's gondola.

The hazardous enterprise of re-awakening the zeppelin has not been undertaken by a firm involved in aviation but by a concern that is outside this sector of industry. Herr Theodor Wüllenkemper, head of the Mülheimer Luftfahrtbetriebe WDL, that deals in advertising, chartering and flying instruction promptly informs sceptics that building a zeppelin will give him more profit than risk.

In September a second 'Blimp' will be operational. It has been bought by a Japanese organisation. At the beginning of next year Wüllenkemper will deliver numbers 3 and 4 – to a French and South African organisation. Each airship makes a profit of something like one million Marks.

The prototype cost about two million Marks. The zeppelin will remain in the hands of the Mülheim firm because it has been hired to a brewery for advertising purposes at an estimated charge of three million Marks annually.

The Mülheim 'Musekteer' will be used for advertising purposes in much the same way as the Goodyear zeppelin that was recently a guest in this country. The Mülheim zeppelin will be fitted out with special equipment for advertising purposes, a function that has given zeppelins a new lease of life in our jumbo-jet age.

The zeppelin's hull has been decked out with ten thousand coloured lights so that news items and advertising slogans can be displayed at night. A computer organises the advertising slogans. The letters that appear on a machine in the gondola, controlled by the computer. The gondola had to be designed to take a load capacity of one ton for the computer.

The zeppelin has been designed by Richard Gründer who has had experience designing balloons at the Augsburg works. He hopes to be able to build even larger zeppelins to carry freight in the future, when Wüllenkemper's hopes are realised.

Recent developments make it possible to build bigger airships that are capable of carrying heavier loads. Thus a planned 120 metre long airship will be able to lift 30 tons, three times more than the Hindenburg could although it was twice as long. Furthermore the airships designed by Gründer are not so affected by weather conditions. They can remain day and night at the mooring mast. And there is no scarcity of helium gas, unknown to Graf Zeppelin. Russian and American firms are in the race.

The first WDL airship has been given an airworthiness certificate and the code letters D-LDFM. It is shortly to make a test flight. The captain intends not only to examine the new zeppelin's manoeuvrability but also to give an uplift to the zeppelin's image all over the world. Theodor Wüllenkemper intends to build more airships and he wants them to be well presented throughout the world.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 August 1972)

Town pilots

An oil company has organised a free motorised pilot service for tourists in Hamburg, Kiel, Munich and Cologne.

This facility has been set up in collaboration with local tourist offices, the police and ADAC, the Federal Republic motoring club.

The 'pilots' are girl students who have a knowledge of one or more foreign languages. They ride about on easily manoeuvrable motor cycles and wear a bright blue two-piece suit.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 26 July 1972)



A vignette of Cologne's gentlemen of the road

Bottles of beer do the rounds in the shadow of Cologne's cathedral. The city's beggars are saying goodbye to a fellow gentleman of the road. 'Opa' with the iron gray beard wants to winter elsewhere in Europe. The 'lads' wash away their sadness with long gulps from the bottles.

Opa won his popularity when he appeared in a radio interview. He has been homeless since 1930 and he is soon to celebrate his 58th birthday.

His official name is Roman Sadowski. It is eleven o'clock and the tourists are milling around taking pictures. Opa, whose identity card clearly states that he has no fixed address, has been able to cadge four Marks which he spends on booze. On the way to the pub he folds up a newspaper and deposits it in a paper basket.

Roman Sadowski comes from Gladbeck. He left home "because my father was a drinker". He joined the army and rose to the rank of sergeant-major. He also served in the French Foreign Legion. Opa speaks French, Russian and Polish. He has been in prison for seven years in all for vagrancy and begging.

When the winter weather is bad he has nothing against being in a warm cell, but if the weather is mild he prefers to be on the outside. He does not say "as free as a bird" with any romantic connotations.

He says: "I cannot be otherwise. I must be on the go."

Opa and his colleagues are afraid of work. The Cologne beggar king sleeps on bench 17 by the cathedral. He had a 19-year-old friend bring out his bed that he intends taking with him on his trip. He is not sure if he will go to Sweden or Bulgaria. Opa is a loner.

The evening before Opa set off his friends had a singsong and poured plenty of beer down their dry throats. The songs were accompanied by a guitar.

50-year-old Kurt, an old crony of Opa's philosophised over the calling of beggar which he has practised for many years. He had been a pilot, but he his marriage broke down and he went off in a car and then became a beggar. He sleeps in public gardens and parks and does his early morning toilet in the main railway station. He said; "You cannot afford to be too clean when begging or else you don't earn very much."

Kurt wears a hat made of brown cord. He wore it on the night, and had 100 Marks with him. He maintained that when sitting at the right place at the right time it was possible to 'earn' 30 Marks an hour.

Kurt can tell at a distance of 50 metres if a person will throw something into his hat. After ten bottles of beer and two schnapps for breakfast he still appeared as sober as a judge. He offered a little advice he had learned at his trade. He said: "Smile at dogs and children but for heaven's sake never smile at a woman – then the men give more."

He likes living on the road. So far he has hardly had an illness, just like Opa, but if he does he can always go to the social welfare office.

The members of the guild, who don't like to hear words such as 'beggar' or 'layabout' or 'ruffian', think of their old age. When Kurt returns to the life of a ordinary citizen he claims that he will place his cord hat that has earned him as much as 8,000 Marks a year in a glass case.

The lads of Cologne who call themselves nomads and who when the cold weather comes wrap themselves in newspapers to keep warm do not only keep to Cologne's environs. Kurt smirked: "If I hear of a good place in Munster or learn there is a diplomatic wedding in Bonn then I'm off and I can earn a bit."

Hans-Werner Loose

(Die Welt, 1 August 1972)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Piano players

More pianos are being played in the Federal Republic than ever before according to a statement made by the association of musical instrument-makers in this country from its offices in Trossingen.

The sales of pianos continue to rise. The demand for pianos over the past few years has been considerably influenced by general economic conditions in the country and developments of the wage pattern.

According to statistics provided by the musical instrument-makers association in 1970 a total of 9,300 pianos were sold in this country. By 1965 this figure had increased to 15,300 and it is expected that this year a total of 22,000 will be sold.

Further statistics from the association showed that out of 26 million homes in this country seven million had 2.9 musical instruments of one form or another. These include 1.35 million pianos.

Among this country's 61 million inhabitants there are 1.8 million pianists, 62 per cent of whom are female.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 July 1972)

No women's lib

Liselotte Funcke, vice-president of the Bundestag and a Free Democrat Bundestag member, suspects that the Federal Republic postal services have a down on women. For the second time she has asked the posts to include portraits of women involved in the women's rights movement on special issues of postage stamps. The postal authorities have rejected the suggestion.

The two women leaders are Gertrud Bäumer (1873-1954) and Helene Lange (1848-1930). Both women were involved in the publication of the turn-of-the-century magazine *Die Frau* and Gertrud Bäumer produced *Handbuch der Frauenbewegung* (Handbook of the women's movement).

This country's women's association is pressing to have the birthdays of both women celebrated by a special issue of postage stamps.

The Post Office rejected the idea. In Question Time in the Bundestag State Secretary Ernst Haar informed Liselotte Funcke that "for administrative reasons and because it was essential not to burden philatelists with excess charges" the idea could not be accepted.

Since the women's association made the suggestion the number of issues of special stamps schedued for as far ahead as 1974 have increased considerably.

In a written reply to Ernst Haar Liselotte Funcke has asked who as a representative of women's rights is to be included on special postage stamps. Suspiciously she commented: "It's a question exclusively of men."

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 August 1972)

Film sales up

Photographers in this country purchased 62 million rolls of film last year of which 66 per cent was colour film for colour slides. Sales of black and white film, compared with the previous year, fell from 39 per cent to 34 per cent, according to a Nuremberg market research organisation.

Eighty per cent of the films were purchased in a photograhic equipment shop while the sale of cameras from major retail sales organisations increased. Fifty per cent of all miniature cameras were purchased from department stores or mail order houses.

(Handelsblatt, 28 July 1972)

■ SPORT

Kiel – a profile of the 'other' Olympic city



With the opening of the Olympics just around the corner Munich has sunned itself in a blaze of publicity for months. The twin towers of the Frauenkirche and the Olympic marquee roof, the city's tradition and association with the arts, its reputation for *Gemütlichkeit* and its two foremost political figures, Social Democratic Chief Burgomaster of Munich Hans-Jochen Vogel and Christian Social Union leader Franz Josef Strauss combine to make Munich particularly attractive.

Munich has gained such popularity that the other Olympic city, Kiel, a byword practically only for yachtsmen, might just as well take a running jump into the Baltic, as it were.

It is certainly high time Kiel, a city with a charm entirely different from that of the Bavarian capital, were put in profile.

Kiel is only 130 years younger than Munich yet it boasted a university of its own in 1685, centuries before Munich university, established in 1826, was even a gleam in its patrons' eyes.

Munich, on the other hand, embraced the historical and cultural traditions of its Bavarian hinterland and acted as a catalyst for new and independent traditions of its own, whereas Kiel for centuries remained a small town of tradesmen. Despite its impressive *Schloss* it never attained the status of a residence of the Dukes of Holstein, who were of course the Kings of Denmark.

Oddly lacking in tradition, Kiel did not gain promotion to city status until a century ago, when it became the home port of the Imperial German navy.

The only Kiel traditions that are still in evidence are thus those of the Navy and the naval dockyards. They have unquestionably influenced the appearance and outlook of the city, though not necessarily in any way artistically.

The inhabitants of Kiel have mixed feelings about their naval tradition. At the end of the First World War the city forfeited its economic foundations and after an apparent naval revival during the Third Reich Kiel went to rack and ruin in every sense of the word.

Today, 27 years later, Kiel is a generous, breezy, seaside city centred around the port, which forms the heart of the town.

This is what is so special about Kiel. From Holstenbrücke, the centre of a pedestrian precinct that was one of the first and the forerunner of many in this country, freighters, coastal vessels, Bay steamers and harbour facilities are but a few hundred yards away.

On the far side of the berths on a quayside that juts deep into the heart of the city the resplendent cranes of Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft shipyards tower, a more impressive sight than anything contemporary statuary has to offer, a brilliant blue and red in sunlight and a variety of pastel shades in fog and mist.

A little further off, but still in the city centre, there is the rebuilt *Schloss*, a cultural centre and not merely a museum piece, and the Oslo Quay with its distinctive ferries that ply to and from Scandinavia.

This is where a two-mile promenade reminiscent of Scandinavia begins. Even in poor weather it is frequented by pedestrians who enjoy the open view of the Baltic and the changing patterns of traffic along Kiel's lifeline, the canal that links the Baltic with the North Sea. Kiel Canal is the busiest in the world.

With any luck the visitor can here see the *Gorch Fock*, this country's cadet training schooner, setting sail. What a touching sight it is, too, a romantic leftover from days of yore.

Still further on the romantic touch is brought to an abrupt conclusion, though. Against the background of a wooded coastline to the port side Nato warships lie at anchor in the Titpitz harbour.

Kiel is grey, green, white and brick-red. Grey for the sea, not to mention the cloudy sky and the fog pierced by ships' sirens. The tenement blocks that survived aerial bombardment during the war are either grey or brick-red.

The infrequent but generally well-sited skyscrapers are white, as is the up-to-date university campus and the modern dormitory suburbs with their impressive skylines.

The woodland, parks and greenery deliberately cultivated by enlightened town planners in the wake of wartime destruction are a vivacious green and make a pleasant change from what could only too easily have been a sad array of housing estates.

Kiel, unlike, say, Lübeck, is a city that lacks romantic byways. Precious little is left of the old town, the foundation of the *Schloss*, the outer walls of the city's oldest church and two unresplendently beautiful Baroque buildings.

Broad natural horizon

The city is undoubtedly a city and it boasts an urban skyline but the keynote of it all remains the broad natural horizon of the Bay. On odd summer days the sky is a Mediterranean blue and the element of the sea provides Kiel with an atmosphere comparable only with that of Copenhagen among Northern European ports.

As for the Olympics it is no coincidence that Kiel is hosting the Olympic sailing events for the second time in 36 years. The crucial factor is the Outer Bay, extending to Bülk lighthouse in the West and Laboe naval monument in the East, a towering tribute to a post-war nouveau style that is back in fashion again.

The world fame of Kiel Bay among yachtsmen is due to Kiel Week, established ninety years ago more by coincidence than by design by a number of Hamburg yachtsmen.

Kiel Week was famous in the Kaiser's days but has changed with the times. Kiel's most important Chief Burgomaster, the courageous, politically creative Social Democrat Andreas Gayk, set a fresh keynote after the Second World War, forging a single unit out of the political, scientific, cultural and festive character of the regatta, although yachtsmen themselves have never been unduly worried about the landlubbers' contribution to festivities.

Kiel Week is a recent but staunch tradition to which the city can lay claim and its burgomasters have taken care to ensure that Kiel Week retains international importance.

A fresh lease of life

Few people know that Kiel is the native city of poet Detlev von Liliencron and Low German writer Klaus Groth; still fewer people are interested. But thanks to Kiel Week the world knows that Kiel boasts a theatre and a university of importance, a World Trade Institute and a no less famous Oceanological Institute.

All this is due to the creative spirit and imagination that went towards the resurrection of Kiel Week from the wartime ruins and it is as much part of the city as the knowledge yachtsmen have of winds and currents in the Bay.

Kiel Olympic centre in Schilksee, nine miles from the city centre, is, naturally enough, not quite as resplendent as the Olympic facilities in Munich.

Yet Kiel, once cut off from the rest of the world, has gained a fresh lease of life from its Olympic splendour. Schilksee has cost a great deal of money but as a result the city has at long last gained access to the country's autobahn network and is no longer geographically out on a limb.

Perhaps it is more than a mere coincidence that the two Olympic burgomasters, Hans-Jochen Vogel of Munich (who was responsible for nominating Munich as the Olympic city even though he will have resigned as Oberbürgermeister by the time the Olympics open) and Günter Bantzer of Kiel, went to the same university, share political affiliations (they are both Social Democrats), are the same age and, at a respectful distance, friends.

Susanne Materleitner

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 5 August 1972)

A panorama of the Olympic regatta centre at Kiel (Photo: Magnussen)

Stoke Mandeville Games held in Heidelberg

Gold, silver and bronze medals are not to be won at Munich alone this year. From 1 to 10 August the XXI International Stoke Mandeville Games were held in Heidelberg and officially opened on the afternoon of 2 August by their patron, Federal President Dr Gustav Heinemann.

"In the name of all participants I promise that we will abide by the rules in force at these Games and take part in the true spirit of friendship, community and sportsmanship to the greater glory of sport and our respective teams," a wheelchair-bound Federal Republic athlete proclaimed at the start of the Paraplegic Games on behalf of competitors from 43 countries.

The Stoke Mandeville Games are held every four years in the country that hosts the Olympics. This year it was Heidelberg's turn, roughly 1,000 wheelchair-bound athletes competing for sporting laurels despite their severe physical handicaps at the university sportsground.

Competitors are graded according to the degree of their disablement and subdivided into one of five categories. The sporting disciplines in which they compete are archery, the discus, shot-put and javelin, the wheelchair slalom and speed tests, swimming, table tennis, fencing, weight-lifting, bowls, snooker and basketball. Teams are graded according to their disablement ratings.

The most famous competitor this year was Abede Bikila of Ethiopia, twice Olympic marathon gold medallist at Rome and Tokyo, whose 26 mile-run barefoot at Rome astounded all and sundry.

The wheelchair-bound former marathon ace attended the Heidelberg Stoke Mandeville Games in a twofold capacity. Recently elected president of the Ethiopian paraplegic sport association, he was also a table tennis competitor.

The competitors from all over the world arrived for the most part by plane. They were collected straight from the runway at Frankfurt airport by ten Bundeswehr coaches that ferried them and their aides to Heidelberg.

At the sportsground a hospital ward, an emergency post, ambulances and helicopters were at the ready to cater for injuries, while the Bundeswehr provided temporary tent accomodation for 350 people, allowing competitors to take a breather between heats.

The regular accommodation for some 1,000 disabled athletes was two miles away from the sports facilities and twenty US Army buses ferried them to and fro. The seating in the coaches had been removed and special ramps constructed to enable competitors to wheel themselves on and off.

In the city centre a fair number of kerbstones were specially angled to enable competitors to wheel their way across the road without undue difficulty.

Heidelberg Sports Youth supplied a squad of roughly 100 volunteers to serve meals in two shifts and aid adjudicators. These youngsters also carried the flags of competing countries as teams wheeled their way into the arena for the opening ceremony.

Teams were hosted by multilingual guides, girls who also acted as interpreters. A manufacturer of invalid chairs provided a complete repair service for the duration of the Games.

The supporting programme includes concerts, an evening of folklore, a fun fair on the banks of the River Neckar, a festival of lights featuring illumination of the Romantic *Schloss* and a gala show featuring international stars of show business.

Günter Pflaum

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 1 August 1972)